

# THE TIMES

## Ps to debate Grunwick as postmen face suspension

Postmen is to hold an emergency debate on the Grunwick dispute. The decision postmen defied a Post Office warning would be suspended if they continued to handle the company's mail, strike intensified their action, and the discussed further legal action.

## ,000 may join in union protest day

Tender Grunwick dispute fresh confrontation emergency debate to be held in the today. It was yesterday as the discussed further postal staff black-mail were told to isolate the them. Mr Thomas, said the time had to agree to appendices of the House dispute. But, letters that were sub 1 remain so during

Mr Booth, Secretary for Employment, Grunwick, general the Association of Executive, Clerical Staff (Apec), earlier dismissed as any independent the dispute. Other were discussed. also saw Mr Tom Ward, secretary of Post Office those members at north-west London told by the Post they face suspension unless they Grunwick's mail

whose illegal action defiance of their ultimatum pinned up in their yesterday. The said that 64 bags by Grunwick at on June 15 had not d, and 150 items

of delivery ultimatum had been Mr David Dodd, section membership a ward, the instruction ignored.

any which relies to mail order film businesses, agreed seek that the black-mail some effect, although was getting

and ministers are the instruction to a postal strike he London district union has already black-mail to the pite an instruction scathing that such be illegal and dice the union's offer given the right

so said there of declaring official. Their union's funds into

a new union on Grunwick's Mr Bill, the Yorkshire who was arrested at line last week, he TUC general ready to instruct the plant.

## Somali s Kenya

respondent

ya Government led a major inc-Somali border, in s of 3,000 regular overran a Kenyan killed six police killed there, and four. security forces killed autocrat and six wounded 35 more, statement said. The place at Ramu north-east Kenya, ter with the Somali

Government has delegation at the meeting of African Unity raise the matter, make any measure repulse aggression, for the Somalis

is a long-standing Northern Frontier Kenya. Somalis there as they do aden region of

s dies  
ine 29—Princess of the late King mania, and well agda Lupescu be-  
riage, died in her outside Lisbon this ter being practi-  
for more than  
it was 81.

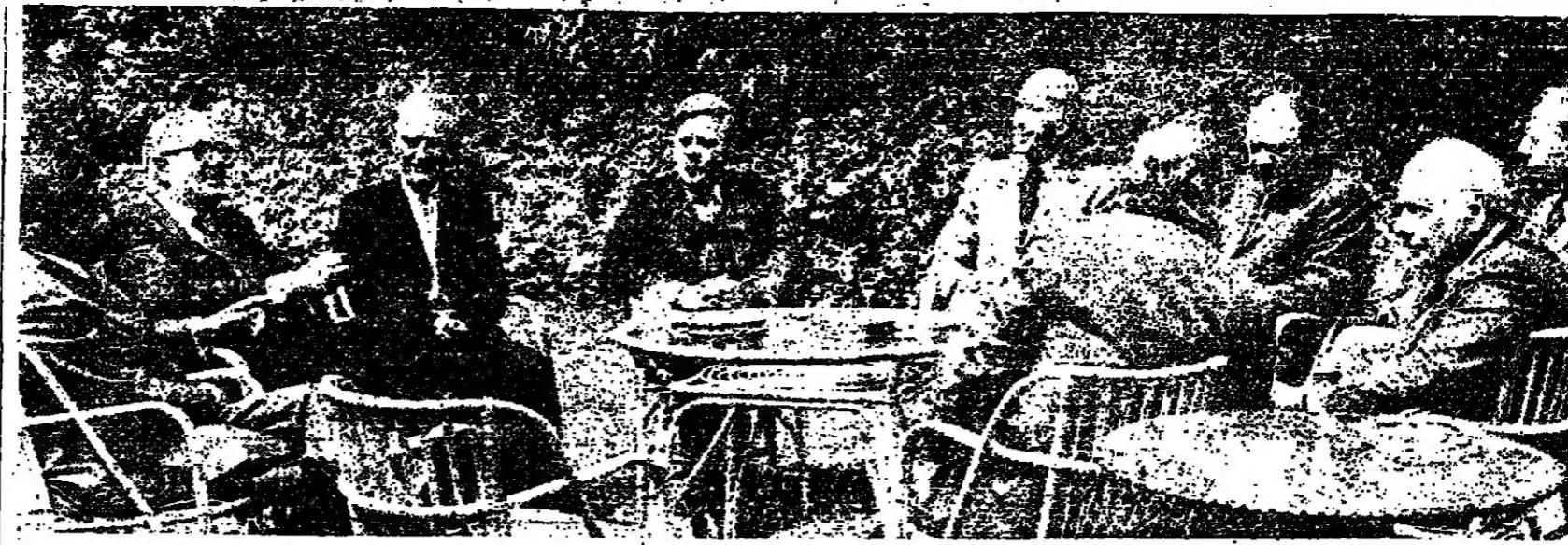
## Four soldiers hit by gunmen

Four soldiers were injured, two seriously, when gunmen opened fire on an Army lorry in the Republican Falls Road distric of Belfast last night (Christopher Walker writes). They were members of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Inniskilling, which had begun its four-month tour of duty in Northern Ireland only on Tuesday. The ambush happened as a four-ton Army truck and a Land-Rover were driving in a convoy. See reopened, page 8

Lords reforms aim  
Peers by succession would cease to have a right to a seat although they would be eligible for nomination for life peerages in proposed reform of the House of Lords by a working party of Labour peers. Instead the new House would consist of about 250 selected life peers or peers of first creation

Breach of privilege  
The House of Commons should be given power to fine those guilty of a breach of privilege according to a report published by the Committee of Privileges. It recommends ending the right of the Commons to imprison MPs and others who commit a breach of privilege.

Hijacker arrested  
A Lebanese was arrested in Doha, Qatar, yesterday after hijacking a Gulf Air VC10 aircraft on flight from Heathrow. He said that he wanted to draw Arab attention to the situation in southern Lebanon. The 55 passengers and nine crew on board were freed unharmed



Clockwise : Mr Thurn, Mr Callaghan, Mr Cosgrave, Herr Schmidt, M Giscard d'Estaing, Mr Joergensen, Mr Tindemans, Mr den Uyl, Mr Jenkins.

## EEC heads recognize need of Palestinians for homeland

By David Spanier and Michael Honby  
A new policy towards the Middle East was agreed by the EEC heads of government last night after long discussions during the first day of their summit meeting at 10 Downing Street.

Mr Callaghan and his colleagues agreed on a declaration spelling out the necessity of "a homeland" for the Palestinians which goes further than any previous Community statement on this point. It also calls that the Palestinians should participate in negotia-

tions on the Middle East in an appropriate way.

The Community's declaration represents an important step forward, according to a French spokesman, in ensuring the continuity of the Nine's policy towards the Middle East. The European position, he added, was very close to that of the United States, who were informed of it in advance. Indeed, the declaration seems to have been ready some days ago.

Its key passage says that the Nine

have affirmed their belief that a solution to the conflict in the Middle East "will be possible only if the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to give effective expression to their national identity is translated into fact, which would take into account the need for a homeland for the Palestinian people".

The heads of government also declare: "In the context of an overall settlement, Israel must be ready to recognize the legitimate rights of the

Palestinian people; equally the Arab side must be ready to recognize the right of Israel to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries."

Arab governments have been pressuring the EEC to make clear its position in the light of the advent to power of the right-wing regime of Mr Menachem Begin. In their declaration, the Nine conclude that the peace negotiations must be resumed urgently, with the aim of agreeing and implementing a

Continued on page 5, col 6

## Place for 'specialized' all-in schools planned

By Diana Gledhill  
Education Correspondent

A radical departure from the ideal of a "pure" comprehensive school system is being planned by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Mrs Williams has made clear that once comprehensive education has had a chance to become fully and effectively established, she hopes there will be a place for specialized schools to which parents may choose to send their children in order to give them particularly good instruction in, say, the sciences or modern languages.

In a private letter to Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, dated March 2, 1977, Mrs Williams says: "I know that at present many authorities with comprehensive systems in operation are able to allow parents to select the schools they wish their children to attend—whether county schools or voluntary schools, denominational, single sex or mixed."

They included legal action against individual postal workers at Cricklewood, the seeking of an injunction against the Post Office, an action for defamation against Capital Radio, and action against individuals and organizations involved in the picketing for conspiracy to intimidate or obstruct.

The possible action for defamation arose from a phone-in programme on Tuesday involving Mr Grantham. Mr Gorst added:

In a continuous written reply yesterday, Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said Grunwick faced criminal action if it persisted in failing to make returns required by the Companies Act.

The company had last night that accounts had been filed late. They would have been filed on time but the industrial action had meant that staff had had to concentrate on getting films out to customers.

At a press conference yesterday Mr Gorst said that Mr Ward was being helped with his legal costs in the industrial dispute by the National Association for Freedom. Mr Gorst denied that, however.

so said there of declaring official. Their union's funds into

a new union on Grunwick's Mr Bill, the Yorkshire who was arrested at line last week, he TUC general ready to instruct the plant.

Parliamentary report, page 8  
Leading article, letters, page 17

## US court rules rape not capital offence

From Patrick Erigan  
Washington, June 29

The Supreme Court has ruled that it is unconstitutional to condemn a man to death for rape, the ruling strikes down Georgia law and retrieves convicts who have been in death row, some of them for years, while their appeals worked through the courts.

The court voted seven to two, with the two most conservative members—the chief justice, Mr Warren Burger, and Mr Justice William Rehnquist—dissenting. These two also voted alone against a decision yesterday refusing former President Nixon control over tapes and documents from his years in the White House. They were both appointed to the court by Mr Nixon.

The case decided today concerned Ehrlich Coker, of Georgia, who was sentenced to death in 1972 for raping a 16-year-old girl. The court ruled that the sentence amounted to "cruel and unusual punishment", which is prohibited by Article 8 of the Bill of Rights.

The ruling will stand whether or not in future rape cases there are aggravating circumstances, which are permitted in deciding sentences in murder cases.

The court observed that death sentences for rape had been eliminated from the laws of most states over the years. It said that short of murder, rape was the ultimate violation of the person, but none the less was of a different nature to murder.

Mr Justice Lewis Powell, in a concurring opinion, agreed that Mr Coker should not be executed but said that there should not be an absolute rule against the death penalty for rape. He suggested that the attendant circumstances might be so serious, the victim might be so grievously injured physically or psychologically, that her life might be ruined, and the death penalty might then be appropriate.

The Chief Justice complained that the court was striking down the death penalty for every crime except murder, including treason and hijacking.

## £800m new deal for young unemployed

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

An £800m programme to combat record levels of youth unemployment is set to begin over the next five years was announced by the Government yesterday.

"It is a new deal for the young," Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, said.

The project, costing £160m gross a year but much less when set against benefit savings, is expected to attract assistance from the European Social Fund. The aim is to ensure that every young person gets a job, a training opportunity or a place in one of the new schemes. The programme, covering the five years from September, 1978, will involve up to 230,000 young people a year, and will concentrate on the least qualified.

The proposals, which the Government estimates will help twice as many youngsters as the present schemes, flowed from recommendations by working party under Mr Geoffrey Holland, head of planning at the Manpower Services Commission. Two new plans to combat adult unemployment were also announced.

The measures are intended to ease the present "bottle" with the young population falling to instruct and supervise youngsters on work experience courses.

A special temporary employment programme (Step) will provide job opportunities for those aged 19 and over for up to one year. The NSC will devise projects in areas of acute unemployment, involving ultimately 25,000 places. They also will get the going rate.

The job release scheme due to close today will be extended to March 31 next year. It involves people within a year of retirement giving up their jobs in exchange for a government grant of £23 a week.

Parliamentary report, page 8

## Archbishop defies the Pope

From Our Correspondent  
Epsom, June 29

Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre today kept to his plan of ordaining 30 priests in defiance of an order by the Pope and so threatened the Roman Catholic Church with schism.

Making an outspoken attack on the reforms introduced by the second Vatican council, he declared in a homily: "It is no longer our Catholic Church. We do not understand it any more. It is no longer our faith."

The archbishop's voice on the telephone from his home in the mountainside at his residence here in Switzerland as he told an open-air congregation of almost 4,000: "We will remain Catholics. We will not assist in the destruction of the Church."

Apart from many French—a special train had arrived earlier—he was heard by contingents from southern Germany and Austria, as well as by smaller groups from many countries, including Holland and Britain.

Under a heavy sky, processions wound their way down from the seminary to the altar in a freshly mown meadow.

Mr Lefebvre, in full clerical regalia, was applauded as he passed through the crowd to conduct the ordination service.

His voice trembling with indignation, the archbishop, aged 71, mentioned a visit to the Vatican of the Hungarian Communist leader, Mr Janos Kadar, "the who was a Catholic and Hungarian blood".

He repeated that he would have been prepared to postpone the ordination service had the Vatican agreed to sanction the St Pius V Mass—"our eternal Mass"—and been prepared to have a commission discuss the "erroneous and ambiguous" texts of the second Vatican council. But his proposals had been unacceptable to Rome.

The Pope's Correspondent writes: The Pope was silent today about Mr Lefebvre's defiance of his authority.

The growing need to cut prison sentences, page 16

## New theory on end of ancient Crete

By Nature-Times News Service  
The rapid decline of the Minoan civilization in Crete nearly 3,500 years ago has usually been attributed to a violent volcanic eruption on the island of Santorini near by. Recent excavations on Santorini, however, seem to show that the widespread destruction on Crete was not caused by the effects of a volcano.

The first high civilization in Europe began in Crete about 2000 BC. By the beginning of the late Bronze Age, about 1600 BC, the civilization had spread throughout the Aegean and two main groups had developed: the Minoen in Crete and the Mycenaean civilization, based on the mainland of Greece.

In 1500 BC the Thera volcano erupted on the island of Santorini, 70 miles to the north of Crete, burying a Minoan settlement in volcanic ash. At 1450 BC all the cities and palaces on Crete were destroyed simultaneously and this has been blamed on a further eruption of the Thera volcano, with a subsequent collapse of its crater resulting in tidal waves and earthquakes.

By 1400 BC the centre of political and economic power had shifted from the great Bronze Age city of Knossos in Crete to Mycenae on the mainland. These dates are deduced from an examination of the style of pottery found in the destroyed towns. The archaeological ceramic dating is well established and runs out the possibility of a simultaneous destruction of settlements on Crete and Santorini by a single catastrophic volcanic eruption. The conclusion is that the Thera volcano must have erupted twice within 50 years.

The recent excavations on Santorini were made to look for evidence of volcanic eruptions separated by 50 years. This would easily be seen through the presence of an

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## SAVILLS in the City

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## HOME NEWS

# Breach-of-privilege offenders should be fined, committee says

By David Wood

Political Editor

Offenders against the privileges of Parliament and MPs will in future face fines rather than imprisonment if a recommendation from the Committee of Privileges in a report published yesterday is adopted. It is a proposal that touches journalists, publicists, and all those who engage in political controversy.

The House of Commons has been increasingly reluctant in recent years to press and pursue complaints of contempt, partly out of a growing sense that MPs who are sharp-tongued themselves in a privileged House ought not to be unduly sensitive to criticism, but also partly because the penalties of imprisonment virtually always looked excessive. In 1967 the Committee of Privileges recommended legislation to impose fines for breaches of privilege, a power that fell into disuse about 300 years ago. Yesterday's report stated:

"Your committee emphasize that they expect such occasions [for imposing fines] to be extremely rare, but they are convinced that the power to impose fines is required if the penal jurisdiction of the House is to retain its credibility. If there were a power to fine, your committee consider that the power to imprison should

cease. They believe that the House would nowadays be extremely reluctant to impose a sentence of imprisonment for an offence of contempt."

As a sanction against the non-payment of fines, imprisonment by the House could be replaced, it is suggested, by the payment of fines as judgment debts, to be collected through the machinery of the courts.

The Commons motion to impose a fine would originate with the Leader of the House, and would be unamendable. If it was defeated, other substantive motions could be taken, changing the amount of the fine, admonishing the offender, or imposing no fine at all.

Another recommendation is that "proceedings in Parliament, crucial to questions of contempt, should be defined by statute for the purpose of absolute privilege in defamation cases; and the mode and extent of publication should be reckoned in considering complaints." The Soaker could also take into account whether a remedy at law existed although the existence of such a remedy should not exclude a complaint.

Third Report from the Committee of Privileges: Recommendations of the Select Committee on Parliamentary Privilege (Stationery Office, £1.10).

## Comprehensive education danger feared

There was a serious danger that genuine comprehensive education would never be achieved unless the Government took immediate and radical measures to secure the promised reform, a pressure group of parents and teachers in comprehensive schools said yesterday.

It was said that a comprehensive system was now all but established, a joint committee of the Campaign for Comprehensive Education and of the Programme for Reform in Secondary Education told a press conference in London. But it was clear that comprehensive education was still far from established in many areas.

Fewer than a third of the 97 local authorities in England were as yet fully reorganized. A further third could be reorganized in the next two years, "but only if nothing prevents plans from being implemented". The last third would not be reorganized unless the Government took active steps, the committee says in a statement entitled "Comprehensive education—our last chance?"

## MPs to receive increase of £4 a week

By Our Political Reporter

An increase of £4 a week for ministers and backbenchers under phase two of the pay policy was announced yesterday by Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons.

Some backbenchers will now receive £6,270 a year. Others with outside interests will receive £5,938 because they agreed to forgo the £6 phase one increase as their total earnings, like those of ministers, exceeded £8,500 a year.

For the Prime Minister, for example, who is paid £20,000 a year plus a £3,000 parliamentary allowance, the increase amounts to less than 1 per cent.

Mr Foot said the Government had been unable, because of pay policy, to determine the future basis of MPs' pay. The Pay Stabilisation Review Body recommended in 1975 that it should be reviewed every two years.

MPs allowances are also to be increased by 5 per cent to £3,687.

## Press body's caveat on lay members

By a Staff Reporter

A frequent criticism of the Press Council, that it has not enough lay members, is rejected today by Lord Shawcross, QC, its chairman.

He admits in the council's annual report that he was doubtful at first whether the lay element was big enough to outweigh the two appointed members. "I am glad now to record that I think it is, because in practice there has never during my chairmanship been an occasion in which any division of opinion has involved a confrontation between press and lay members as such."

Lord Shawcross says the council is studying piracy, a difficult matter, in which the public's right to know has to be reconciled with the right of individuals to remain some degree of privacy.

"Gossip columns are a feature of the modern press, and I share with most people an interest in reading them," he writes.

"But this does not mean that we respect those who purvey such information."

The number of complaints to the council rose by nearly a fifth in the year ended June 30, 1975, to reach 440. Fifteen were brought forward from the previous year, to make a total of 455. Of these, 294 were withdrawn or not pursued.

Others were disallowed or carried forward, and the council adjudicated on 55 cases. A striking feature was an increase in the proportion of complaints upheld. In 1973-74 one case in every two adjudicated was upheld. In the year under review four cases were upheld for every three rejected.

*The Press and the People* (Press Council, 1 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AE, £1). Journalists' ballot, page 3.

## Dispute over loyal message reopens sores

From Christopher Walker

London Correspondent

A graphic reminder of the deep divisions existing in Ulster society was provided this week by the extraordinary incident of the silver jubilee telegram to the Queen that was not sent and never will be sent.

The telegram, on behalf of Londonderry City Council, the second largest in Northern Ireland, should have arrived at Buckingham Palace yesterday. But the religious differences that have bedevilled attempts to resolve Ulster's troubles intervened.

As well as exacerbating traditional differences between the two political traditions, the in-

cident has provided a bitter foretaste of the difficulties that might arise when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit the province in August.

A motion to send the telegram was introduced at the council's monthly meeting on Tuesday by the deputy mayor, Mr Thomas Craig, one of the six Official Unionist members.

According to his resolution,

the message should have read:

"We, the loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen in London, wish to convey to Her

Majesty our congratulations on the occasion of her silver jubilee,

coupled with grateful thanks for

all she has meant to her people

over the past 25 years. We are

sorry that she is not able to pay

a visit to our historic city, but

we hope that Her Majesty's visit

to Northern Ireland will be an en-

joyable one."

The wording would scarcely

have appeared controversial in

any other part of Britain, but

it proved too much for the

mainly Roman Catholic Social

Democratic and Labour Party.

A hasty adjournment was called

to consider its suggestion that

"we, the loyal subjects"

should be changed to "we the

undersigned loyalist coun-

cilors".

After considering the amend-

ment the "loyalists" refused to

contemplate any change in their

original draft, with the result

that the resolution was defeated

by 16 votes to eight, and the idea of sending official jubilee greetings was scrapped.

Among those who voted against was Alderman Leonard Green, of the SDLP. "We represent a tradition that is not loyal to the Queen of England, so why should we pretend that we are?"

The telegram issue has caused an outcry among Protestant politicians throughout the province. Although Londonderry unionists plan to send their own message, old political sores have been reopened in a city that has recently escaped the worst excesses of intercommunal hatred.

An internal Home Office inquiry, conducted by Mr Gordon Fowler, Chief Inspector of Prisons, is expected to be pub-

lished in two weeks.

The "unofficial inquiry, sponsored by Prop, the prisoners'

rights group, and chaired by

Mr John Phillips-Mills, QC

blames the Home Office for

permitting at Hull prison "in-

creasing harshness of the

regime and a heightened inci-

dence of solitary confinement"

in the period immediately

before the riot last summer.

Danger signals, it says, were

ignored. "There is no clear evi-

dence of the Home Office's

responsibility for what hap-

pened than in refusal to act in

the face of these warnings."

The inquiry concludes that

Riot inmates were subjected to

wilful brutality at the hands of

prison officers after agreeing to

desertion from their posts

to stop deteriorating. The report

says: "Prisoners were the vic-

tims of grave assault, and of

maltreatment, marked by

degraded and inhuman con-

duct. Men had to run the gauntlet of scores of prison

officers wielding riot sticks,

chair legs and other imple-

ments; were knocked to the

ground and then beaten by

groups of prison officers, and

were repeatedly assaulted

when alone in their cells."

The inquiry based its investi-

gation on 26 written deposi-

tions from prisoners, as well as

verbal evidence from other

parties. It rejects the possi-

bility of collaboration between

inmates in their smuggling

accounts of the riot, because

all were transferred and placed

in solitary confinement imme-

diately after the riot.

Examining wider issues of

prison policy, the inquiry

expresses concern about evi-

dence of the use of drugs as

"control" machinery" in

prisons. "It appears that

strong tranquillizers are being

administered to men who are

in perfect health and have no

need for medication", it says.

"There is a danger of the doc-

tor becoming the most feared

man in the prison."

The Prop inquiry calls for

an official public inquiry into

the Hull riot, with the suspen-

sion of loss of remission for

Hull prisoners pending its

findings. It also demands an

open prison policy, increased

prisoners' rights of access to

independent legal and medical

advice, and prohibition of the

administering of drugs to pri-

soners who are in good health.

## Home Office accused of harshness at Hull jail

By Peter Godfrey

An indictment of the Home Office for harshness and sec-

recy in its prison policy is made in the findings of an

unofficial inquiry into the

Hull prison riot pub-

lished yesterday.

After months of dispute with

Sir Arthur Irvin, who had a major

victory at the last election

when the Liberals beat him

in the constituency he rep-

resented.

**Methodists' new laws**

The Methodist Conference

yesterday approved new law

under which ministers can

be tried by church cou-

ts for charges



## HOME NEWS

## Peers by succession would not sit in altered House of Lords

By David Wood

Political Editor  
Reform of the House of Lords to consist of about 250 selected life peers or peers of first creation has been proposed by a working party of Labour peers.

Peers by succession would cease to have a right to a seat, although they would be eligible for nomination for life peers. Law Lords would keep their places, but the episcopal bench would be reduced from 26 to 10.

The working party report published today proposes that the 250 working peers, all on salary like MPs in the Commons, would be selected to accord with the balance of parties in the Commons. In that way, it is argued, no one party in opposition would be capable of obstructing the will of the Commons as a matter of course.

It is also proposed that the powers of the Lords should be reduced further to reinforce the dominance of the Government of the day in the Upper House. The Lords' suspensory veto "should be reduced to six months from the date of disagreement" between the Commons and Lords, except that there would be no change in Lords' powers to prevent an arbitrary government in the Commons extending the duration of a Parliament.

The 12 Labour peers in the working party, under the chairmanship of Lord Champion, put up a fairly sturdy defence for a bicameral system that during recent years of minority Labour government has come under sharpening attack and increasing threats from members of the Parliamentary Labour Party. There will certainly be a campaign for the abolition of the House of Lords to be included in the next Labour manifesto.

The report claims for the Upper House its efficacy in examining and revising Bills, especially where a guillotine motion has applied in the Commons; its usefulness as a forum in which non-controversial legislation can be initiated to relieve the burden on the Commons; its work on private Bills proposed and proposed; its excellence in scrutinizing the work of legislation originating in the EEC; and the quality of its general debates.

Nevertheless, the working party is well aware of the PLPs present and likely future mood, and goes much further in proposals for Lords reform than the ill-fated Crossman scheme that emerged after inter-party talks between 1966 and 1968, only to die unmourned in the Commons.

Some of the Labour proposals would be attractive to many Conservative reformers in the Upper House, including Lord Carrington. He has urged publicly and privately for several years that the House needs reconstitution in terms of membership, although he would use a smaller, non-hereditary House as a defence for the retention of its effective powers of surveillance over the Commons and the Executive.

The working party's proposal of a reduction in the Lords' suspensory veto to six months is less radical than it can be made to look. A Bill defeated in the Upper House may be reintroduced within 12 months of its original second reading in the Commons and if a government's business managers know their trade timing the second reading of controversial legislation the veto need not be as long as six months even now.

Although even peers in the working party may doubt whether their reforms are to be regarded as practical politics, one proposal will be welcome to members of the PLP who still feel bitter about Sir Harold Wilson's use of patronage. It is suggested that list of nominees for creations in the peerage "would be made as required from time to time by a select committee of the House of Commons to be chaired by the Prime Minister". The Prime Minister would make a final selection from the list for recommendation to the Sovereign.

The proposal that the full-time working and voting peers should be salaried will be highly controversial, partly on the ground that it would help to make the Upper House a rival to the elected House in terms of careers and status, partly because a ripple of outrage is running through Westminster corridors about the lavish pay and benefits likely to go to directly elected European MPs.

The nine proposals for reform of the Lords are as follows:

1. In a reformed second Chamber peers by succession would cease to have a right to sit but would be eligible for nomination for life peers.
2. Life peers and peers of the first creation would continue in membership.
3. There would remain room in a reformed House for the law lords and 10 bishops.
4. From the reformed House there would be established a body of about 250 voting peers, selected to reflect party balance in the Commons. Each of the parliamentary parties in the Lords would determine the composition of its own section of the voting peers.
5. Non-voting peers should be paid a salary. Non-voting peers would be able to claim authorized traveling and other expenses incurred in attendance.
6. Delay to a Bill resulting from disagreement between the two Houses should be reduced to six months from the date of disagreement. After that period a Bill would, on the passing of a single resolution by the Commons, be presented for Royal Assent. The proposed reduction in Lords' powers would exclude any change in powers in relation to any Bill that extended the duration of a Parliament.
7. The powers of the two Houses on private Bills and all subordinate legislation would be changed to enable any decision of the Lords to be overridden by the Commons.
8. Lord Champion explained last night that the working party was set up to consider a recommendation of a committee of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party that the House of Lords should be abolished. He said a copy of the report would be sent to the party's general secretary, who would be asked to bring it to the NEC's attention. He added that not many Conservative peers would dissent from proposals to reduce Lords' membership and veto powers.
9. Lord Patten, who leads for the government in the Lords, said the proposals had been submitted to rank-and-file Labour peers and commanded their support.

Mr Robert Steedman, of Morris and Steedman, architects, Edinburgh, giving evidence on Shell/Esso's proposed £300m development at Moss-morran and Braefoot Bay, Fife, agreed that Braefoot Bay was beautiful, and that it had been designated as having great landscape value, but said he believed that the plan for landscaping the terminal and

Average weekly income of the most prosperous elderly households is £42.70, survey shows

## Greatest proportion of old people's money spent on food

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Even the most affluent old people spend the biggest proportion of their money on food. Among the poorest that proportion is nearly a third, according to Age Concern, the charity founded in 1940 to promote the welfare of elderly people.

That and many other facts about old people's income and expenditure, their numbers and where they live, standards of living, possessions and outlook on life, have been assembled in a document by the organization's research unit through reanalysis of existing data.

The government census and such sources as the Family Expenditure Survey, the National Food Survey and the National Readership Survey,

have been combed for information that Age Concern says, is needed in compact form to provide guidelines for doctors, health visitors, housing managers and others who plan and care for the old, pensioners and the retired.

Mr David Hobman, director of Age Concern England, said that too many myths surrounded the elderly and facts were needed. Everyone in the field had to be informed about the detailed needs of the old.

At mid-1976 there were slightly more than 10,750,000 people aged 60 or over, almost a fifth of the population, the document says. At every point in that age range women outnumbered men. On present official projections the total number of elderly persons will increase by 3 per cent between now and 1986. Between 1976

and 1996 the number of those aged 60 to 74 will decline by almost 700,000, while those aged 75 and over will increase to the same extent.

The findings show that there is a slight tendency for old people to cluster in the inner areas of big cities. There is, however, considerable movement by both young and old. Young parents move our far enough to secure a garden and fresh air; retired people, particularly those in the middle class but increasingly also those in the working class, seek the warmer climate of the South of England. The elderly make up a tenth of the population of East Sussex, for example, while in the commuter belt of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire the figure is under 4 per cent.

On March 31, 1975, of the

7,500,000 people aged over 65, 150,000 were living in institutional homes; slightly more than 100,000 were in local authority homes.

The most prosperous households of elderly people, with either the man or the woman over 65, had an average income of £42.70 weekly, just that of a working household.

Most elderly households depended heavily on social security. For all, it represented at least 45 per cent of total average income.

Although as a group elderly people emerge from the pages of tables and statistics as largely behind materially, surveys indicate that they are less concerned about material things than younger adults.

They get on better with their neighbours than younger people do, care little if they

have no car and get more satisfaction from leisure than younger adults.

A quarter of elderly people suffer "aches and pains" and half said that they were taking a drug to relieve pain or sleeplessness at the time of the survey.

One house was destroyed and another burnt fiercely after being partly demolished in Albert Street in the centre of St Albans. Both had been occupied, but two of the three people slightly injured were Eastern Gas representatives investigating reports of a leak.

Eastern Gas said later that while the engineers searched for a leak a lorry drove past and a spark might have caused the explosion.

Mr Aubrey Wren, aged 51, of Hamilton Road, Long Eaton, was taken to hospital with serious injuries after his kitchen had been demolished by an explosion.

## Four hurt in gas explosions at homes

Four people were injured in gas explosions in houses at St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire, yesterday.

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Mr Mark Abrams, former director of the Social Science Research Council survey unit, said at a press conference that three-quarters of the elderly population led a satisfying life. But a quarter were acutely disabled. Their main difficulty about what would happen if their health deteriorated seriously.

Profits of the Elders' Age Concern, 60 Piccadilly, London, Mitcham, Surrey, £10.

## 'No help' for travel company creditors

Hopes that a government-sponsored fund will pay the £1,153m debts of the R. J. Manners Ltd, the travel company, were dashed at a creditors' meeting in London yesterday.

Mr James Christmas, the official receiver, had been asked if creditors could be reimbursed from the air travel reserve levy. "Unfortunately this company was not registered air tour operator", he replied.

He said the company, which had operated the Overseas Relatives' Reunion Club, did not seem to be covered by the provisions of the levy.

"Surely there is a government department to deal with this?" a creditor asked. Mr Christmas replied: "There is a possibility, but it does not mean you are covered and have recourse to the levy."

Mr Christmas said a statement of affairs had not been filed. But assets were estimated at £99,730; preferential debts at £7,256; and unsecured debts at £1,246,691. The total deficiency was £1,159,419.

Many creditors expressed anger at the way they had been treated. Mr John W. Dyer, an ambulance driver, for £900, said: "It is disgusting."

The receiver told the meeting that the company had been formed in 1974 to take over a business started in 1970 by Mrs Rosanne Mary Manners. She and her husband, Roger,

became directors. Her business had shown a £113,000 deficiency when it was taken over.

The company had been concerned mainly with travel to Australia and the transatlantic routes. It had employed about forty staff at its head office in Scarborough, and had 10 smaller offices elsewhere.

Under a guaranteed fare scheme, club members had paid fares to Australia up to four years in advance.

Mr Christmas said the company's profits had come from airline commissions. It seemed that the company's overheads had been consistently in excess of the commissions.

On March 17 the company had appointed accountants to investigate its affairs and shortly afterwards trading ceased.

Mr Richard Herd, a chartered accountant, said it seemed that at most unsecured creditors would get 10p in the pound. "That seems to be so," Mr Christmas agreed.

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## T EUROPE

## Party accord involves fian Communists Government policy

**ricia Clough**  
June 29—  
st government agreement between the Communists has been approved by five of the six which directly or indirectly support the present government.  
Minister Party secretary Enrico Berlinguer, the event as a "new start in Italian politics".  
tance should not be rated, he said.  
ement consists of a and a document which future Government.  
Important domestic such as the economy, order, and reform of universities and local t.  
specifies points on parties have been agree and which, in will be worked out.  
ment was approved terms by leaders of parties at a late-night nd completed by a of experts today.  
none of them was happy with the ruling Christian the Communists.  
Republicans and socialists were all in tiny right-wing expressed serious s, and is putting the its party executive. ement still has to be y the executive committee other five parties secretaries meet today to decide if it fits parliamentary

surprised by the disengaging way in which he referred to the vagueness of American foreign policy at a luncheon in Bonn after those London encounters. He evidently still feels that West Germany's discreet negotiations over exit permits for Germans in East Europe are threatened by President Carter's public proscriptions.

That is not basically a problem for the EEC. But it could have its impact on EEC attitudes to the Belgrade review conference on security and cooperation in Europe.

If President Giscard d'Estrées feels threatened by next year's general election, he showed no signs of apprehension and starvation—even if with no hope of solving them.

After these, the EEC summit seems a rather tattered, hot house affair, helpless in the face of the scourges of unemployment and inflation, and all too often seeming to create and exacerbate problems through its own existence.

This does not mean there was no tension at the Government's centre off St James's yesterday. What's the latest news? asked journalists, and anxiously. They were of course referring to Wimbledon, which was being shown on three colour television sets.

When President Giscard d'Estrées suggested, in 1974 that these meetings should be institutionalized he saw them as an informal meeting point for a free exchange of views; as a last court of appeal to resolve recalcitrant problems;

and as a source of collective pronouncements on such issues as the Middle East.

It is probably the human contact which is most valuable. Any prime minister tends to think his domestic problems are particularly acute. Such meetings are a reminder of the domestic factors which help shape each member state's attitude to the EEC and international issues.

One of Mr Callaghan's was embodied by some 50 anti-marketeers who waved banners outside Downing Street at lunchtime yesterday.

As things stand, the present meeting is remarkable not just because the European Community is not in a state of crisis and has no really crucial issue to resolve: it is also one of those rare occasions when no member state is in a serious political crisis.

Mr Joop den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, has recently been confirmed in office, and in buoyant form. So has Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, though he has suffered over opposition from within his own coalition. Mr Anker Jorgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, had the happy look yesterday of a politician whose popularity is rising.

The same may not be true of Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, but he is safe until next year's Land elections. The word from the German camp yesterday was that his rift with President Carter over the human rights issue was far from bridged.

German correspondents were surprised by the disengaging way in which he referred to the vagueness of American foreign policy at a luncheon in Bonn after those London encounters. He evidently still feels that West Germany's discreet negotiations over exit permits for Germans in East Europe are threatened by President Carter's public proscriptions.

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## EEC summit notebook

## Get-together in Downing Street without a crucial issue in sight

By Roger Berthoud

During last night's meeting Signor Berlinguer raised once again his party's demand for a broadly-based government of "democratic unity", with themselves as members. Not unexpectedly, he was once again refused. But he said in a statement afterwards that this remained the party's objective and they would make sure their supporters were aware of it.

It is generally agreed that Signor Giulio Andreotti's minority Christian Democratic administration will continue in office for the time being.

One of the trickiest problems still outstanding is over the form of recognition to be given to the new government and what guarantees should be made for its implementation.

Signor Berlinguer is reported to want it signed by all parties but the Liberals refused to sign the same sheet of paper as the Communists. Another suggestion was for a parliamentary motion. But, it was objected, how could Parliament give a motion which contained differences of opinion?

Signor Andreotti, who has hitherto remained somewhat cautiously from the sidelines by suggesting forthcoming consultations with the Government by members of the parties involved:

The agreement culminated three months of slow and difficult negotiations. The process was set in motion when the Communists and Socialists declared that they were no longer prepared to support the Government by abstaining in Parliament without having a say in official policies.

## alan leader meets g Juan Carlos

Correspondent

June 29—

Signor Berlinguer gave a recognition to the Catalán government: the Generalitat, he conferred here with Josep Tarradellas, the latter, for, talks about a question.

Editorial staff at the newspaper suspect right-wing extremists in view of the rash of threats which they received over the past few weeks from rightists, annoyed at the newspaper's often flippant treatment of themes which are sacrosanct to diehard Francoists. Señor Miguel Angel Aguilar, the editor-in-chief, was sued for defamation by a former Minister Señor José Antonio Girón, as a result of a magazine article in which Señor Aguilar reviewed Señor Girón's highly profrivate stand dealings with Señor del Sol.

The Madrid provincial court yesterday upheld the policeman's claim and ordered the journalist to pay £427 in damages, a fine of £214 and court costs.

Another Díario 16 journalist is expected soon to begin serving a 20-day prison sentence imposed by a court martial in Bilbao for "disrespect to the armed forces".

tion of who bombed out, outspoken news media unanswerable. Díario 16 receives a mysterious telephone g that the two big in Sunday were the First of October Revolutionary

1970).

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**Herring ban  
extended  
by Britain**

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent,  
Westminster

The British Government told the EEC's Council of Ministers it will impose a ban on herring fishing within Britain's 200-mile limits in the North Sea for the rest of the year.

Mr Bruce Milner, Secretary of State for Scotland, told the Commons yesterday that the Government will be in touch with the Commission on continuing the present ban when it expires at the end of the month, in view of the failure of EEC ministers to come to an agreement acceptable to Britain.

The ban was being imposed under the terms of the Hague agreement and there was a legal obligation on Britain's EEC partners to abide by it, he said.

MPs' warning: Mr Donald Stewart, Scottish Nationalist MP for Western Isles, said last night: "Information has been communicated to me from a reliable source that the whole of the Dutch herring fleet will sail in a few days for the North Sea and Scottish fishing grounds."

Their intention to do so will probably have been communicated to the Danes and the Germans, so that the attack on the fish stocks will see them cleaned up within a week.

It is an outrage that alleged EEC partners should be destroying our herring stocks in this way. Danish industrial fishing is regarded with abhorrence and anger in Scottish ports."

Parliamentary report, page 8

ouside the railway station in Northern Lower Saxony, on the pretext of asking the time of a train. He drew a pistol and ordered the driver to take him to Hamburg. After making a tour of the city the hijacker ordered the driver to hand over his money and fled with it after a short struggle. Reuter.

ijacker in joy ride

June 29—Police

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the driver at

drive to Hamburg

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ation indicator on the red 40-second "special journey".

orded it yesterday

## EEC chiefs stalled on nuclear site

Continued from page 1

comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict".

Other subjects discussed by the heads of government included the status of the EEC's ambitious thermonuclear fusion project, the situation in Africa, East-West relations, economic problems, and the implications of the further enlargement of the Community.

No decision was reached on the question of the site for the fusion project which has been referred for further discussion to foreign ministers. The apparent failure to break the 18-month deadlock on this issue could well mean the final abandonment of the project.

The main obstacle to agreement is competition between the West Germans and the British to provide the site for the fusion project known as the Joint European Torus (JET). Britain considers that the Culham laboratory near Oxford is technically the best qualified for the job, while the Germans have been equally insistent in urging the claim of the Gartringen research centre, near Munich.

Report, that Herr Schmidt has made a link between the JET question and a joint different dispute over the level of British contributions to the EEC budget could not be immediately confirmed. But it seemed unlikely that Mr Callaghan would be prepared to consider a trade-off of this kind.

Economic problems, focusing on the themes of growth, inflation and unemployment, were also reviewed.

The Nine believe that the main obstacle to agreement is competition between the West Germans and the British to provide the site for the fusion project known as the Joint European Torus (JET). Britain considers that the Culham laboratory near Oxford is technically the best qualified for the job, while the Germans have been equally insistent in urging the claim of the Gartringen research centre, near Munich.

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## Need for a Palestinian 'homeland'

## Text of EEC statement on Middle East

The following is the text of the statement on the Middle East issued after the meeting of EEC heads of government in London yesterday:

"At the present crucial stage in the Middle East, the Nine welcome all efforts now being made to bring to an end the tragic conflict there.

They emphasize the crucial interest which they see in early and successful negotiations towards a just and lasting peace. They call on all the parties concerned to agree urgently to participate in such negotiations in a constructive and realistic spirit; at the juncture, in particular, all parties should renounce statements or policies which could constitute an obstacle to the pursuit of peace.

The Nine set out on many occasions in the past, for example in their statements of November 6, 1973, September 28, 1975, and December 5, 1976, their view that a peace settlement should be based on Security Council resolutions 242, and 338, and on:

(i) the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force;

(ii) the need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967;

(iii) respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.

(iv) recognition that in the establishment of a just and last-

ing peace account must be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

It remains that more work than these aspects must be taken as a whole.

The Nine have affirmed their support for the right of the Palestinian people to give effective expression to its national identity, translated into a state of its own, and to bring to an end the tragic conflict there.

They consider that the representatives of the parties to the conflict, including the Palestinian people, must participate in a process of negotiations to establish a framework for a negotiated solution to the conflict.

In the context of an overall peace process, the Nine believe that the recognition of Israel must be made by the Arab side, and the Arab side must be ready to recognize the right of Israel to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.

It is not through the acquisition of territory by force that the security of the states of the region can be assured; but it must be based on negotiations to achieve a settlement between all the parties concerned with view to establishing truly peaceful relations.

The Nine believe that the peace process must be pursued with the aim of agreeing and implementing a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict. They remain ready to contribute to the search for a framework within which a settlement can be found.

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## OVERSEAS

## New opposition party launched by South African whites given little chance of political survival

From Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg, June 29

South Africa's new white centre party, a merger of the once great United Party and the puny Democratic Party, which has not a single seat in Parliament, was launched here today amid distinct signs that it may not survive long enough to become the official opposition when Parliament resumes.

Even as Sir de Villiers Graaff, the United Party leader, was presiding over the last rites of his party at a Johannesburg ice rink last night, six more of its MPs resigned to further the process of self-immolation that has been killing off the party steadily for the past 20 years.

Mr Japie Basson, the leader of the group, said that, although he and his supporters had no intention of joining any existing political party they would cooperate with the anti-apartheid Progressive-Reform Party to form a new "vertical" (enlightened) opposition.

Mr Colin Eglin, leader of the Progressive Reform Party, promised to work for "unified vertical opposition" and disclosed that committee would be appointed within a few days to start negotiations with the Basson group.

As things stand, the United Party and Democratic Party coalition, called the New Republic Party, has 24 seats in Parliament and the Progressive-Reform Party 12, excluding the six in the Basson group. Another six United Party rebels, who broke away recently to form a new South African Party on the right of the existing opposition groupings, make up the rest of the Opposition. The ruling National Party has 123 seats.

The New Republic Party is

likely to lose a further seat to the Progressive Reform Party in a pending by-election in Johannesburg, which means the PRP will need to control only six more to take over as the official parliamentary opposition.

Mr Theo Gerdener, leader of the Democratic Party and former Interior Minister in the Nationalist Government, fell heavily on the ice today at the congress here and had to be helped to his feet by his new United Party colleagues before he was able to tell 700 delegates: "We are going to submit to the world outside a political system where there will be no apartheid, no discrimination and no domination at all."

The motto of the New Republic Party would be: "Self rule for all," he said. It appeared the vast majority of homeland blacks favoured self-rule and the party would appoint a commission of inquiry to find out what the nine million non-homeland blacks wanted.

The Johannesburg Star, formerly a staunch supporter of the United Party and of Sir de Villiers Graaff, said in a leading article: "Sir de Villiers finds himself in partnership with Mr Theo Gerdener, leader of a raggle-taggle group which cannot be properly described as a party."

Mr Gerdener is so confused in his political thinking that he takes seriously of a "confederal federal system", a political concept which exists only in his own mind. His terminology and stated objectives, as far as they can be understood, sound uncomfortably like apartheid ideology cloaked in more euphemistic terms."

The Star forecast that the New Republic Party was "likely to waste away, its disheartened supporters drifting to the Nationalists or the PRP, leaving behind a group of disappointed politicians who meant well but missed their moment."

Sir de Villiers, who is leaving the leadership, told the congress: "What is needed is a party in the middle of the political spectrum, when that spectrum includes white, black and brown, so that moderate whites can talk to moderate blacks, while there are still moderate black, in the interests of a peaceful solution."

The new party's aims included elimination of discrimination and domination, the protection of group identity, joint decision-making on matters of common interest, and the working out of a new constitution in consultation with all communities.

The leader of the new party has not been named so far, but is expected to be Mr Radclyffe Cadman, Naval leader of the United Party and one of its most forceful parliamentarians. He has been the architect of schemes, such as Naval's multi-racial consultative council and its plans for a multiracial metropolitan council for greater Durban.

A wealthy sugar farmer, he would be the first English-speaking leader of the Opposition since Sir Thomas Smartt of the Unionist Party, who held office from 1912 to 1921.

More important, he has already indicated that he is prepared to reopen the negotiations with the Progressive Reformation Party which Sir de Villiers Graaff started earlier this year. His new party, he said, should be formed as "another step on the road to a broader opposition including other parties as well".

## Hijack 'to draw Arab attention to Lebanon'

Doha, Qatar, June 29.—A Lebanese man, arrested here today after hijacking a Gulf Air VC10 airliner with 64 people on board, said he wanted to draw attention to the situation in Lebanon.

Samir Muhammad Hassan Sharara, aged 26, said by officials to be from southern Lebanon, said he believed his hijack was "the best way to attract the attention of Arabs who do not care enough about the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon".

The area is the scene of fighting between Palestinians and the Lebanese left on one side, and the Lebanese right supported by Israel on the other.

Mr Sharara was arrested by Qatari security men after freezing unmasked the 55 passengers and nine crew members on board the airliner. The aircraft, on a flight from London to the Gulf states of Dubai and Oman, was hijacked after taking off from Dubai, where it had been boarded by Mr Sharara, armed with a silencer-equipped pistol and two hand grenades.

The aircraft has since flown on with its passengers to Muscat, Oman.

An official statement issued here said Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Qatar's Crown Prince and Defence Minister, went to the airport to supervise the handing over of the hijacker.

After Mr Sharara allowed the crew and passengers off the airliner a group of Qatar security officials to release more money to help such people to return to Rhodesia and so partly redress the emigration

## Returning whites boost Rhodesian confidence

From Frederick Cleary  
Salisbury, June 29

The Rhodesian Government is making a big play of the fact that, despite spiralling emigration figures, quite a few whites are returning to live in this country.

Recently published figures show that the average net loss a month is now 980 with 1,754 people having gone in May. This is more than any other month on record, and so far this year a total of 4,917 have left.

But Mr Elias Bloomberg, the Minister of Immigration, says his department is getting more letters daily from people who left for Britain and elsewhere, but having become disillusioned, now believe that despite its problems, Rhodesia is still a worthwhile country in which to live.

He quoted a typical letter from a 24-year-old electrician in London who wrote to say that he was "very sad I left so much for so little".

Over the months there have been many reports in the local press of people returning from Britain or settling here from Europe, Australia and the United States. Over 400 emigrated here in May.

Those from Britain often cite the high cost of living, the socialist Government, falling educational standards, the power of the trade unions and the general indifferent attitude to life in modern Britain as their main reasons.

Deighted with such letters, Mr Bloomberg is urging Treasury officials to release more money to help such people to return to Rhodesia and so partly redress the emigration

## US tightening ban on chrome imports

From David Cross  
Washington, June 29

The State Department today refused to comment on African allegations that Rhodesian chrome was coming illegally into the United States via Japan. But officials said that negotiations were already under way with industrialized countries like Japan to ensure that they export to the United States, continued, no banned minerals from Rhodesia.

A spokesman for the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Libreville claimed yesterday that Japan was buying Rhodesian chrome and reexporting it to the United States. A Foreign Service spokesman said the OAU allegation was groundless and must have been based on misunderstanding. Reuter.

Sanctions. The matter would be discussed by foreign ministers of the OAU who begin a five-day meeting in Gabon this weekend, the spokesman added.

Over the years there have been many reports that Rhodesian chrome has entered the United States by way of such countries as Japan, West Germany and the Netherlands. This was permissible under American law between 1971 and last March when the so-called Byrd Amendment was to.

But since March, when the amendment was repealed by Congress, President Carter has been going out of his way to ensure that the United States is in defiance of United Nations

sanctions. The matter would be discussed by foreign ministers of the OAU who begin a five-day meeting in Gabon this weekend, the spokesman added.

Excavations on Crete add additional evidence against the volcanic destruction theory. Deposits of volcanic ash are not found at the level corresponding to a date of 1450 BC.

It is possible that early researchers were misled by pumice stone found in human settlements of this period which could have been imported as implements.

New estimates of the size of the tidal wave produced by the collapse of the crater of the Thera volcano show that the wave was less than 30ft high and so could not have caused the extensive destruction previously attributed to it.

If the destruction in 1450 BC was not caused by the effects of a volcano some other cause must be found. The most

## Congress gives go-ahead for B1 bomber

Washington, June 29.—Congress has given the go-ahead for the development of the B1 bomber, which would be the most expensive weapons system in history, even though some critics argued it was already obsolete.

Government sources here said yesterday that the Soviet Union has already begun work on a new fighter designed to intercept the B1. But Congressmen backing the B1 said it could be modernized for service well into the next century against any Soviet air defence innovations.

A final decision on B1 development now rests with President Carter, who during his election campaign described it as a wasteful aircraft.

The Pentagon has already spent \$4,000m (£2,300m) on the project and the House of Representatives last night rejected, by 243 votes to 178, an amendment cutting off a further \$1,500m in funds for the aircraft.

They also said they did not think news of the Soviet developments would affect Mr Carter's decision on the B1, which he was to announce tomorrow.

Two other members of the Ukrainian group to promote implementation of the Helsinki accords are still being held in isolation cells in Kiev awaiting trial. They are Mr Myroslav Matyrovych and Mr Mykola Matushevych, both of whom were arrested in February.

The group was formed on November 9, 1976. Its main aim include: "acquiescing the Ukrainian public with the Declaration of Human Rights, striving to have the Ukraine, a sovereign European nation and member of the United Nations represented at its own delegation at all international conferences dealing with the implementation of the Helsinki accords", and "promoting the free flow of information and

research".

It wishes to accept written complaints about violations of human rights and bring them to the attention of government agencies, to have the Helsinki accords "as complete information on the state of legality in the Ukraine and disseminate it without regard for national boundaries; and to study instances of the violation of the rights of Ukrainians living in other republics."

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The research was carried out by Herr Hans Pichler of the Institute of Mineralogy at Tübingen University and Herr Wolfgang Schiering of the School of Classical Archaeology at the University of Mainz.

By Nature-Times News Service. Source: Nature, 267, 819, June 30, 1977.

Leading article, page 17

## Earthquake, not volcano, may have hit Crete

Continued from page 1

eroded layer between deposits of volcanic ash. No such layer was found.

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## Flags lowered for the last time on the Dulles concept of an eastern Nato

## Seato fades into cold war history without firing a shot

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, June 29

Without firing a shot in anger the South-East Asian Treaty (Seato), Organisation, the once proud military bulwark against communism in Asia, will fade into history tomorrow, unheralded and almost unnoticed.

The original treaty declared that the eight founding members would cooperate within Seato to settle disputes by peaceful means, provide the area with economic development and establish a collective defence agreement against aggression. In executing the United States stipulated that intervention against aggression and armed attack should only apply to communists aggressors.

Illustrating the conflicting objectives which have bedevilled Seato during its 22 years of existence, the flags of two founding members, Pakistan and France, have not been raised over the building for years.

Pakistan, frustrated by Seato's refusal to intervene against India during the Bangladesh conflict, withdrew from the alliance in 1973. France ceased participating in military activities in 1967 and withdrew from Seato.

In the ensuing years the eight-party alliance conducted a number of joint military exercises in South-East Asia but the organization was never put to the test. Nor did it ever go to war.

Seato was founded because that

in the early 1970s Seato had all but dropped its military role, replacing it with economic development projects, health service schemes and advice on counter-insurgency.

In September 1974, military planning for defence was suspended. With the fall of Saigon, Laos and Cambodia in 1975, Seato was forced to re-examine its role once more, with radical results.

The original aim set out during the cold war in Asia of containing China had become obsolete. The United States had opened up a dialogue with Peking and many of Asia's conservative governments, including Thailand and Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam as areas for defence against China.

Hammering one of the last nails into the coffin, President Marcos of the Philippines and Mr Kukrit Premjai, the former Prime Minister of Thailand, met in Manila in July, 1975, and declared that while the basic Manila pact of 1954 should remain in effect, the Korean war, based on fears that China would not honour the Geneva agreement after the fall of Dien Bien Phu.

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PARLIAMENT, June 29, 1977

## New programme of measures to counter unacceptably high level of youth unemployment

House of Commons

Details of new programmes to help unemployed young people, to be in operation by September, 1978, and costing about £160m, and further measures to help to ease adult unemployment were outlined in a statement by Mr Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment (Barrow-in-Furness, Lab.).

Mr Booth said that one of the most striking features of the current recession has been the very large increase in youth unemployment which could have lasting effects on the personal development and outlook of young people.

Youth unemployment remains unacceptably high the went on, and is likely to remain high for some time to come. This is of serious concern to the Government.

We have therefore decided that the Manpower Services Commission should be asked to operate a new programme of opportunities for unemployed young people on the lines of the proposals they put to us based on the excellent report of their working party.

In reaching this decision we have also taken into account the relevant report on the job creation programme of the Social Services and Employment Sub-Committee.

of the Expenditure Committee and comments made by MPs in the debate on May 24.

The new programme will draw together and build on existing schemes for young people. It meets the criticism that existing provisions do not provide adequate training for young people to obtain a series of measures for unemployed young people in the 16 to 18 age group which will provide a combination of training and work experience.

These will be run to fit the needs of individuals, with the purpose of improving their prospects of obtaining a satisfactory permanent job at the earliest possible moment.

There will be a maximum of 130,000 places on the programme with opportunities being given to over 250,000 young people. We are also considering the provision under the present schemes and corresponds to the assessment of the need made by the MSC.

The MSC and Government will review the size of the total programme annually against the prospect for youth unemployment. In drawing up the programme account has been taken of the possibility of assistance from the European Social Fund.

We shall want to ensure that

the MSC to operate this rule with some flexibility for individual young people with no permanent job to go to in areas of very high youth unemployment.

All young people on courses under the programme will be paid an allowance of £18 a week. This includes £2 for travel expenses with a discretion to pay more in exceptional circumstances.

The new programme will require increased provision for education and training and we shall be making resources available through the programme to meet the extra costs to the education service.

We shall also be providing more support from central funds for the Careers Service, which has made an excellent contribution against the odds, in view of the extra work which will fall on it.

Initially we shall be providing an additional 170 unemployment specialist posts, on top of the extra 320 posts already agreed, and a new allowance for clerical support in respect of all these posts. To ensure that the Careers Service can maintain high standards, we shall keep their staff requirements under close review as the programme develops.

The programme will be in full operation by September, 1978 and will cost about £150m a year when

it is fully in operation; taking account of savings in unemployment benefit the net costs are about 60 per cent of the gross cost.

Preparations for the new programme will begin immediately. There will be a progressive build-up of places in training and work participation courses from this coming September.

The work experience programme will contribute to the new programme and to ease the transition, the job creation programme will be extended for applications until the end of 1977, after which applications under the new arrangements will be received. There will be over 30,000 extra places available under the current schemes this autumn compared with last year.

In addition to the places in further education colleges required by the MSC programme there will be a complementary education programme to enable more school leavers to continue their education. Resources will be made available to enable local education authorities to offer local education opportunities for those aged 15 to 18 years.

The first would provide 8,000 places for adults on the unemployment register who would be employed as supervisors or instructors under the two new schemes with the decreasing prospect of long spells of unemployment.

The second would be known as the Special Temporary Employment Scheme for adults and the Secretaries of State for Education and Science and the Secretary

of State for Scotland will be providing further details shortly.

We have decided that the main employment subsidy will be extended to March 31, 1978 when it will end. To improve the provisions for young people in advance of the full implementation of the MSC programme I would urge employers to make greater use of this scheme.

On measures for adults, we went to the extent of the introduction of a permanent subsidy since March 31, 1978, and the introduction of the Temporary Employment (Supplementary) Scheme, and the experimental small firms employment subsidy which comes into operation this week.

The other two existing special measures for adults are the job creation programme and the job placement scheme. The MSC have proposed that the job creation programme should be replaced on April 1, 1978 by two separate forms of provision for adults.

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of State for Scotland will be providing further details shortly.

We introduced the job placement scheme on January 3 and it is due to end tomorrow. About 20,000 applications will have been

approved by them.

We have decided that the scheme should be extended to March 31, 1978 but not taking account of the extensions made to the House, that from July 1 it should apply only to those in employment in the assisted areas. The cost of this extension is about £3m; the net cost is about one-third of the gross cost.

The measures I have announced today reflect our determination to continue to maximize the widest range of opportunities for young people especially for young people at the beginning of their working lives. The new programme of opportunities for young people represents a major step forward in tackling the problem of youth unemployment.

It demonstrates your concern which I know is wholehearted about young people who cannot find work, especially with the depressing prospect of long spells of unemployment, but should provide them with opportunities to improve their prospects of obtaining permanent jobs.

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## Year-by-year reviews, but projects calculated to run for five years

educational training, but for manpower services training programmes.

Mr Booth—I have discussed this with the Secretary of State for Education and Science (Mrs Shirley Williams) and it is with that in view that we have arranged to time the introduction of the various phases of the programme to ensure that this will not adversely affect sixth formers.

Mr Anthony Steen (Liverpool, West Derby, C)—This scheme will add yet another to those which have been introduced in the last 18 months on which £700m has been spent. What is the Secretary of State planning to do for the 16 to 18 year old people who are going to be left out of the core of unemployed, drawing the dole and nothing to do?

Mr Booth—I cannot agree that that is an appropriate description of the programme. One of the special aspects is that it meets the criticisms that we have been running a lot of separate schemes which were not integrated, and that we have not had an overall look at what can be done to tackle youth unemployment for school leavers.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab.)—The representatives of all the Opposition parties have welcomed his statement in spite of the fact that they, including the Liberal Party, are calling for a five-year review. They all carry with them the characteristics of preparing people for work and giving them work experience.

We regard the programme as a long term one in comparison with the end of the dole. We will review it year by year, but the projects have been calculated to run for five years.

We will examine within the programme what can be done by way of special projects in the community service and public service areas as there is room within it for that.

I will consult other parties because I would welcome a joint party appeal to employers to support us in this programme. It can and must be done by the Commission and Government departments alone, and needs the support of a number of sections of the community, including employers.

Mr Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab.)—Is the minister sure that the adverse effect on school sixth formers which certain newspapers were anticipating last week will not occur?

We will do our utmost to ensure that there is no bureaucratic wastage in the activities of our department which will follow them. They have asked the Minister of State for Education and Science to consult local authorities and ensure schemes are run effectively in their respective areas.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, Lab.)—There is a necessity to make sure that existing facilities in technical colleges are used not merely for

educational training, but for manpower services training programmes.

The Government need a long-term solution to youth unemployment in addition to the short-term solution now being put in. He should consider the possibility of increases in public expenditure where it can be indicated that expenditure would result in the creation of many jobs for school leavers.

He should consider the possibility of calling together members of all parties that profess to be concerned about youth unemployment with a view to seeing if we can have some national drive among employers to urge them on a regional basis to consider whether they could provide more job opportunities for school leavers.

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educational training, but for manpower services training programmes.

The Earl of Longford (Lab.), opening debate on the penal system, said ministers should take a fresh look at the penal problem. The dreadful overcrowding of prisons provided an urgent reason, but it was not the only one.

The recent report of the advisory council on sentencing policy placed the situation in a new light. It came out unequivocally in favour of shorter sentences for the least serious offenders, while the report said that power represented the principal method of controlling judicial discretion in sentences.

When new offences were created the penalty was often regarded as a routine matter and MPs did not successfully grapple with the problem of relating penalties to the gravity of cases. The report said that people would become increasingly aware of the futility of imprisonment.

Many fewer people should be sent to prison and prison sentences should be made more flexible. Much more should be made of alternative forms of punishment or treatment and parole should be granted much more liberally.

He endorsed the suggestion now being put in by various church leaders that should be made more automatic. That British abolitionists division should be seconded in the European league with regard to the numbers of people serving sentences in closed institutions in relation to the size of population.

Since 1964, 27,000 prisoners had been allowed to complete a part of their sentence in the community, to the general benefit of themselves, their families, and of minimum security for the victims of crime. Punishment and the need for it was not disputed, should include a much larger element of reparation.

Lord Hunt said it would be no bad thing if more of the public services than Britain's abolitionists division should be seconded in the European league with regard to the numbers of people serving sentences in closed institutions in relation to the size of population.

He accepted the suggestion that overcrowding affected all prisons. The problem was largely confined to local prisons and remand centres. The situation in many was profoundly unsatisfactory, with some packed two or three to a cell in a crumpling old Victorian buildings.

An appendix to the Bill would lay down the principles which should guide appointments and the criteria of balance between age, sex, social and political background and geographical spread of the area concerned. Councils would have to publish the results of negotiations to show how the bench of magistrates was changing and becoming more representative within which he will have to recover.

The Bishop of Norwich said punishment, forgiveness and restoration were practical Christian principles to be boldly applied in any reform of the penal system.

Lord Brockway (Lab.) said prisons today were more of the nature of crime factories and more destructive of human character than they were 60 years ago.

The strict discipline, the feeling of inferiority inflicted on prisoners, was an experience to deter anyone. But continued it for six months and the prisoner goes back to it. The deterrent effect of prison was then lost.

One day (he said) there may be a total elimination of what we regard as prison and its place there may be special institutions which endeavour to recover the criminal within the framework of the law, rather than in an artificial society in which he becomes all the more remote from those trends, tendencies and conditions within which he will have to recover.

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Lord Elles, for the Opposition, said the criminal was human and

had to be considered but more attention should be paid to compensating the victim. There should be a more personal form of retribution so that the perpetrator of crime could realize what he had done and the effect of his crime on the victim.

Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State, Home Office said that the situation in the prison was the worst in the country.

He said that the power to set maximum penalties of life imprisonment had been given to the court of Appeal.

Lord Balerno (C) said the reason that the prisons were so full was that there was a lack of head that was an exceptionally high level and that power represented the tendency to send people to prison.

Further consideration was given to the West of Scotland Stock. The Commission again put forward a proposal for a quota allocation but to a ban on fishing in the North Sea, necessary if stocks are to be saved from the ruthless decimation off the coasts of Scotland.

The Council also considered the necessary steps to conserve the herring stocks in a number of areas.

In the case of the Irish Sea stock, it was agreed that consideration of the Commission's proposals should be deferred until there has been an opportunity for discussion with the Irish authorities and the Isle of Man Government about the management of this stock.

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## Cambridge lose stride after dismissal of Bell and Roebuck

Woodcock  
respondent  
Cambridge University  
281 for seven against

having lost the toss, Cambridge won the match yesterday.

Out and out except when bating, Cambridge took charge.

"I'm all too few people

that we've got to treat them like we did in the last day, marked by

pleasant, slightly us cricket. I wondered

that the two sides

of the team were

combined to play

the Benson and

it. It may mean

know one another's

well and lack the

team spirit.

Two wickets fell

in the first over,

one to each side.

Both batsmen

were dismissed

out and off the

batting. Cambridge

had trouble with

the ball, getting

final warning by

as for running too

field. Digby bowled

two wickets fast,

one to each side.

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## NEW BOOKS

# A high sense of moral purpose

**The First Fabians**By Norman and  
Jeanne MacKenzie

(Weidenfeld &amp; Nicolson, £12.50)

Although long and packed with material, this book is not a history of the Fabian movement. The period when prominent Fabians sat in successive Labour Cabinets, and actually saw some of their schemes take physical form, or at least appear on the statute book, is dismissed briefly in an epilogue. The MacKenzies are primarily concerned with the intellectual, political and social climate which made the idea of Fabianism possible in the 1880s, and with the men and women who gave it birth and nourished it. By 1914, when a new world began, Fabianism was already a healthy and noisy adolescent with its own mouthpiece, the *New Statesman*, its own university, the LSE, its system of lectures and summer schools all over the country, and now all its pamphlets carrying the gospel of gradualist socialism throughout Britain and indeed the world. It is at this point when the movement reached maturity that the MacKenzies break off their tale.

It originally began, I imagine, as a tale of ideas, but it rapidly became a tale about people. This is natural, indeed inevitable. In the early days the ideas of the Fabians were highly volatile; it was their personalities and characters which remained consistent, and consistently entertaining. Annie Besant might shift, in rapid succession, from street-corner rabble-rousing, an armchair political philosophizing, and then to founding a new religion which rejected political action in favour of moral reform; but she remained the same astonishing controversialist and demagogue, with a wonderful gift for words and arguments and an incorrigible weakness for handsome men with foolish ideas. Shaw was equally volatile, and even when he finally settled down intellectually, in his late forties, it was only to anchor himself to what might be called a theory of paradox.



Sidney and Beatrice Webb at the time of the Poor Law Campaign

Besant Webb, I was interested to note, herself oscillated between a number of alternative approaches to reform, and would undoubtedly have married Joe Chamberlain had he hammed her with little more finesse. Sidney Webb was the most consistent, partly because of his Colonial Office training, and partly because he was the first to see the importance of local government in Fabian schemes, and to take advantage of it. But even he took more than a decade to establish his line of action. By the time that he had firmly decided to marry, married Beatrice and, with her help, got a tight grip on the movement, the Fabians were on their way. But it was, perhaps, the popularization of Fabian ideas by Shaw's plays and Wells's novels which gave them a national audience, and thus made it worth the while of senior politicians to patronise them.

The MacKenzies are brilliant on Shaw: their book is never dull but it always strikes whenever he strides on to the page. They are very moving on Beatrice Webb. Her highly-

charged encounter with the arrogant and sinister Chamberlain—who said he would not mind a wife holding ideas opposed to his—provided she did so in absolute silence—was a bangle of minds which make Shaw and Ibsen at their best seem tame. Her eventual submission to Sidney Webb, a man whom she found physically repulsive and socially inferior, was a signal act of self-abnegation. The MacKenzies quote Lord Acton on such worthy agnostics: "They saw no 'divine part of Christianity,' but divinised humanity, or humanized religion, and taught that man was perfectable but childhood perfect." Marx still had strong Evangelical roots and, as W. H. Mallock put it, "though they never confessed their pasto, and perhaps themselves tried to live on it, [their] hearts are aching for the God they no longer believe in." All the early Fabian policies were derived within a firm moral framework, reflecting guilt at their possessions and their previous indifference to poverty (a typical Evangelical starting-point). In 1883 Arnold Toynbee told the paupers in a public lecture: "We have neglected you... wronged you... signed against you... grievously... if you will forgive us... we will devote our lives to your service."

What was conspicuously

present among the early Fabians, and lamentably absent among our modern graduates, is a high sense of moral purpose. They were still adjusted to the twilight of the age of faith. The MacKenzies quote Lord Acton on such worthy agnostics: "They saw no 'divine part of Christianity,' but divinised humanity, or humanized religion, and taught that man was perfectable but childhood perfect." Marx still had strong Evangelical roots and, as W. H. Mallock put it, "though they never confessed their pasto, and perhaps themselves tried to live on it, [their] hearts are aching for the God they no longer believe in." All the early Fabian policies were derived within a firm moral framework, reflecting guilt at their possessions and their previous indifference to poverty (a typical Evangelical starting-point). In 1883 Arnold Toynbee told the paupers in a public lecture: "We have neglected you... wronged you... signed against you... grievously... if you will forgive us... we will devote our lives to your service."

**Fiction**

**South of the Lights**, by Angela Ruth (Collins, £4.25)  
**Lady Oracle**, by Margaret Atwood (Andre Deutsch, £4.95)  
**The Way Out**, by Rosamund Gary. Translated by Sophie Willius (Michael Joseph, £4.25)  
**Colombia**, by Carolyn Slaughter (Hart-Davis, MacGibbon £3.50)  
**Written Up**, by Molly Parkin (Michael Joseph, £4.50)

Angela Ruth has a marvellously sensitive empathy for getting inside the skins of all sorts and conditions of ordinary people (who are, of course, not ordinary at all), and making you understand exactly what makes them (and you) tick.

In her new fiction set in a quiet village in the Midlands she captures pat the inarticulate frustrations with old age of the retired working man, the aching devotion of his wife, the loneliness of the deserted woman up in the grand house, the sweating anger and jealousy of lovers; and makes one believe in them

all as people, and sympathises even with the dislikeable ones.

She is superb on the private thorns that married people know how to needle each other with. For the first time in literature since Chaucer she manages to make even her most sympathetic creatures, like her islanders for thinking different women's eyes, views of the same smallevent, and showing how it looks large for her characters who have become our friends.

In short, she is that rare creature, a true novelist, witty and moving and sad, and a true reflector and commentator of life.

Margaret Atwood, the Canadian poet, is a witty woman. *Lady Oracle* is born and moving, and also more perceptively than other far more explicit writing about the psychology and anatomy of women. She sees the skull and the comedy beneath the skin; others in this week's selection never penetrate further than the pudenda. Not all of us are unfortunate enough to be fat girls with driving mothers, who compensate for their failure by ridiculous ambition for their daughters. The cocky Canadian heroine of this book makes us feel that it must be just like this. The compulsively voracious fat girl fabricates her life out of fantasies, and eventually knits herself into a

tiny, young heart trapped in an aging body, the private energy crisis of nature is a suitable cause for fictional treatment. But the phallicistic and medical details mean to be portentous becomes absurd.

*Colombia* is a strange, moving and often powerful story of madness and sanity, love and hate. It starts in the womb and ends in death, and in between explores the secret places of an abnormal mind: an odd location, as if there could be such a thing as a normal mind.

A mad, cruel, Irish Catholic mother rejects her son at birth, and starves him of affection as his boy, so that retribution comes to his emotions. Catholic madness becomes a safe place to hide, because it is easier than living.

The first section of the book dealing with the atrocious childhood that builds stone walls inside the boy's head, is more persuasive than the second, in which he partially escapes from his past through love for a woman and painting.

There are effective insights into sibling envy, frustrated Oedipal feelings, and the odd way that love and sex are mixed together in family situations.

In the second, half the symbolism of surreal painting and the healing effect of the love of a good woman sometimes stray over the edge from profundity into pretentiousness and obscurity.

The heroine of Molly Parkin's randy newspaper romp has had a journalistic career that was similar in some ways to that of the author: writing up victims in interviews of awful candour for a treddy column of remorseless vacuity in a post-war newspaper camouflaged as *The Sunday Star*. Contrary to popular misapprehension fostered by farcical fictions such as this, life on a newspaper does not consist of a ceaseless merry-go-round of bore, hangover, tormentation of every variety and permutation, and minor fiddling interspersed with occasional brief spells of work to do, a searing piece on such topics as paper knackers. It is an acceptable comic device (some would say it is merely realistic) to present sex as pure farce. But it then becomes impossible among the comic couplings and gropings to take seriously the occasional odd bout of lesbian passion intended to be genuine.

Philip Howard

## Trade of secrets

**The Arms Bazaar**

The Companies, the Dealers, the Bribes: from Vickers to Lockheed.

By Anthony Sampson

(Hodder &amp; Stoughton, £5.95)

Anthony Sampson, whose anomalies are better known than Gray's, has finally got round to writing his memoirs. He is a distinguished, witty, and clever author. His parable of the annual anguish of a French business tycoon pushing 60, equating the decline of his erection with Europe's loss of its balls (it's a continent that is mythologically female can be said to have them), is unintentionally irresistibly comic, as well as moving, elegant in pathos.

I do not believe an Anglo-Saxon novelist could write a serious novel drawing an analogy between sexual impotence and Europe's oil crisis, inflation and deficiency of raw materials. Rosamund Gary is a distinguished, witty, and clever author. His parable of the annual anguish of a French business tycoon pushing 60, equating the decline of his erection with Europe's loss of its balls (it's a continent that is mythologically female can be said to have them), is unintentionally irresistibly comic, as well as moving, elegant in pathos.

Yet one of the messages that emerge most clearly from this book is that contemporary concern over this bizarre bazaar is no unique expression of our times. Disgust over the ethics of marketing such merchandise as the arms currency game". The final irony was that the Saudis found the shortage lighting quite unsuitable for profiting their vast air space, while Britain for her part discovered in time that she could not afford the E-111s survey.

The Saudis in the end had

persuaded to buy British planes that they did not want to allow Britain to pay for American planes that they could not afford.

The scandals of the 1970s are described in some detail, partly perhaps because in a trade so full of secrets they opened up a cabinet of facts.

Corruption was also alive and well in the last century, but this time the involvement of a prince and a prime minister made the exposures seem more revealing. They are all here—the yacht parties, the hotel suites, the private planes, the Swiss accounts, the sly girls...

Some firms seemed to give away so much that one wonders how they ever made a profit.

This is a useful book that

splices the strands of a complicated story and presents it all as a very readable yarn. It also brings everything up to date since George Thayer's book *The War Business* emerged eight years ago. But there are points in the narrative when one seems clear that Mr Sampson, for all his skills, has failed to penetrate the closed doors, or the bland exteriors of those who sit within. One needs a surgeon, not an amateur, to that.

Paul Johnson

But in late Victorian and Edwardian England, it was hard to know how many gestures of grace ought to be made. Robert Blizard, attending his first Fabian meeting, asked if he should wear full evening dress. A reporter covering a Fabian discussion, found it took place within a substantial mansion, and that he was escorted upstairs by a footman in blue livery with gold buttons. When Sir Webb married Beatrice discovered that her unearned income was over £1,000 a year. She decided it was right to live on this provided that their joint work was entirely devoted to the public service. Then there was the question of domestic help. That was necessary if she were, as well as the husband, to be of service to the cause but still, in the minds of the wrong.

Conventions descended as the MacKenzies quote Lord Acton on such worthy agnostics: "They saw no 'divine part of Christianity,' but divinised humanity, or humanized religion, and taught that man was perfectable but childhood perfect." Marx still had strong Evangelical roots and, as W. H. Mallock put it, "though they never confessed their pasto, and perhaps themselves tried to live on it, [their] hearts are aching for the God they no longer believe in."

It is easy to laugh, as people like Malcolm Muggeridge did, at the minor, indeed major, moral dilemmas, and political machinations, of these worthy people. But though there is much merit in chalking in the MacKenzies' book, I doubt if it leaves anyone with a higher sense of unimpassioned relations" (women, no doubt). Another was to employ servants, but insist that they are at the family table.

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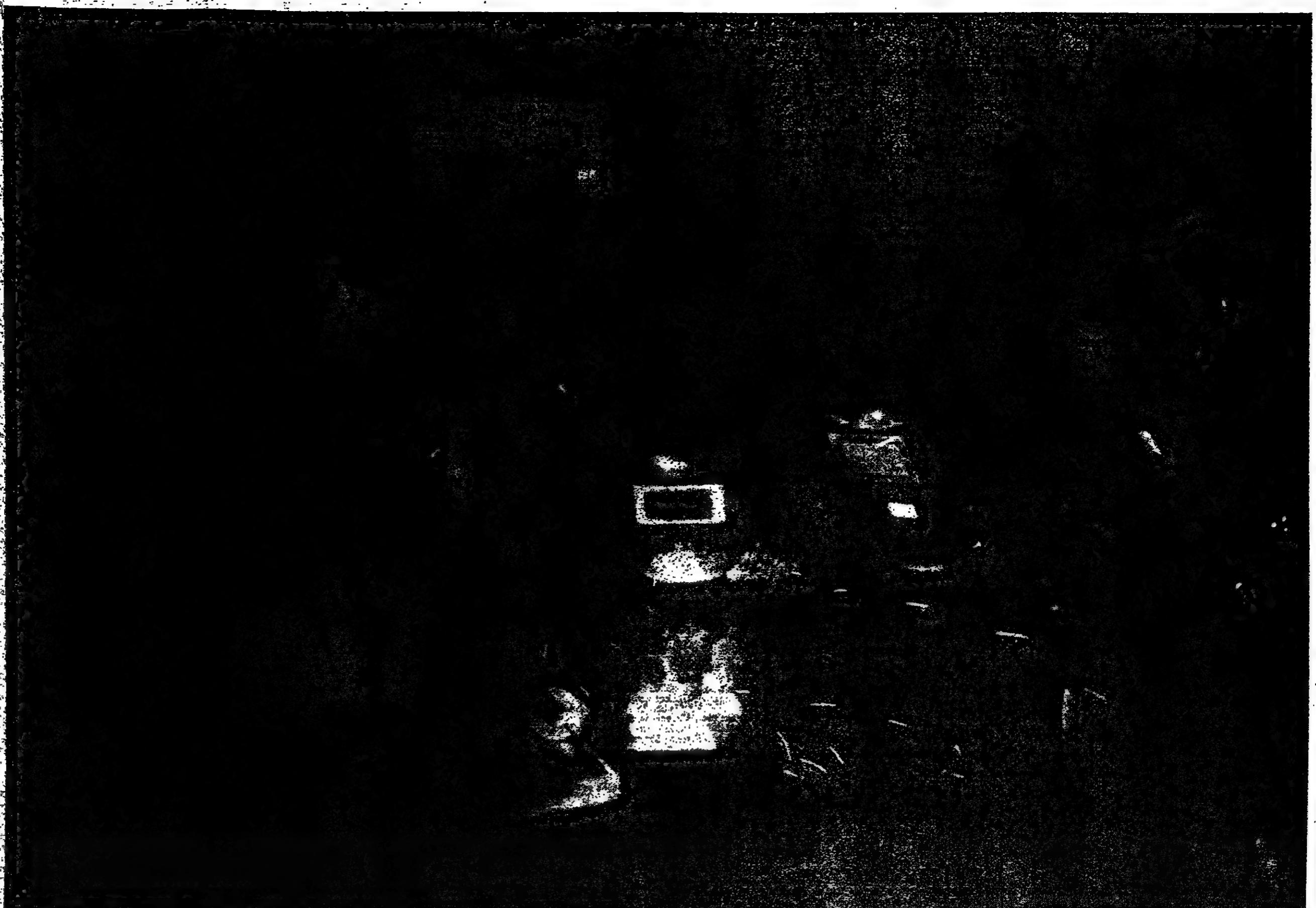
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*Robert Heller with Instructor Colin McNally and a group of craft apprentices in the ICI Training Centre, Wilton.*

## 'For youngsters, unemployment brings lack of purpose. We're determined to avoid that deprivation here.'

HITL  
WA  
DAV  
IRV

At a time of record unemployment, young people and school-leavers are particularly vulnerable. What is ICI, as one of Britain's largest companies, doing to help? Country-wide, ICI, in conjunction with the Manpower Services Commission, was able to find employment for over 600 young people in 1976 in addition to those it would normally employ.

To find out how ICI is tackling the problem on Teesside, its main manufacturing site, Robert Heller, Editor of 'Management Today' talks to Brian Jenkins, Personnel Director at ICI's massive Wilton works.

**Heller:** How bad is the youth unemployment situation on Teesside?

**Jenkins:** The unemployment level amongst young people is still critical and the employment prospects for 1977 school leavers are not very good. Of course it's not like the thirties. When you walk round the centre of Middlesbrough you don't actually see signs of deprivation. But unemployment brings not so much lack of material things, as apathy and lack of purpose. We're determined to avoid that kind of deprivation here.



*Skills appreciation in action with Instructor John Fletcher.*

**Heller:** But surely unemployment is ultimately the Government's problem. Why should you worry about it at ICI?

**Jenkins:** Well, for a kick-off, we're by far the biggest private employer on Teesside. We believe that it is crucial for an industry the size we are in this area to live and survive as good neighbours. And that means paying attention not only to getting the youngsters we need to train for the jobs we have to fill, but also to the total environment. As a company we will survive and grow if we live in a thriving and successful community. After all, we're going to call on this neighbourhood for generations to come for our employees.



*Brian Jenkins: 'The creation of wealth is the best thing you can do for anybody; both in and out of work.'*

**Heller:** So you're increasing the number of people you normally take on in the course of a year?

**Jenkins:** On Teesside as a whole, we take on 200 plus young people annually for permanent employment. But it would be wrong for us to say 'come in all you youngsters in the neighbourhood and work for us'. We're in business to make a profit. To create wealth. What we have done is to take a generous look at, for example, our skilled apprentices. We take more than we need. In fact, over the past few years there's been a considerable increase - At Wilton, our 1976 apprentice intake was 50% higher than that in 1973.

**Heller:** What else do you do?

**Jenkins:** We've started a new scheme for training process workers, the people who actually operate the plant and machinery. We'll take on about 60 young people for training on Teesside this year.

**Heller:** You're trying to create a far better trained and adaptable Process Worker?

**Jenkins:** That's right. Instruments and process control systems have become increasingly sophisticated. You can't operate them unless you understand them. You need a man of reasonable intellectual ability and a considerable amount of training.

**Heller:** How long does this training take?

**Jenkins:** Two years - much of it at a local technical college. They'll end up with City and Guilds qualifications. They also, along with our craft

Brian Jenkins, Personnel Director, ICI Petrochemicals Division, Wilton, Teesside.

and say, 'I've got a likely looking lad here. Would you like to see him?'

**Heller:** To what extent do you have to make good the deficiencies of the school system when you're training young people?

**Jenkins:** This is the great current debate isn't it? We're trying to build a much stronger bridge between Education and ourselves. We encourage school visits. Through our Work Observation scheme, children in their early teens, and shortly to leave school, spend two weeks with us to find out what industry is really like. We talk to careers masters and the representatives of the Education Authority. During the last two years I've noticed us getting much more closely together. We've even invited headmasters to consider the proposition that their teachers should spend a couple of weeks in industry during their vacation.



*A group of trainee process workers outside the Olefines Plant, Wilton.*

**Heller:** What about the young people themselves. Do they seem to be interested in industry, do they co-operate and work well?

**Jenkins:** Oh yes. If you put sufficient effort into helping them, you find you are on fertile ground.

**Heller:** Finally, do you think there's anything more you should be doing to assist in the problem of unemployed young people, school leavers?

**Jenkins:** From what I've told you already, I hope you will agree we are doing all we should. To train vastly more people would hamper our ability to produce the wealth this nation needs. And ultimately, the creation of wealth is the greatest single factor of benefit to people, both in and out of work.

Ideas in action



Ronald Butt

# This mockery of a free vote that is sabotaging the Abortion Bill

By comparison with the big and respectable questions of the day, such as European direct elections, incomes policy or devolution, the subject of abortion and the law comes pretty low on the conventional scale of political importance.

It is also thought to be a little embarrassing. Those who have come to the conclusion that the present law must be reformed are easily dismissed as emotional fanatics (and probably Roman Catholics, no). The cool rationality is conveniently supposed to be with those who defend the present law and would like, if possible, to extend it to allow abortion on demand.

This is an opinion of them which will hardly survive an examination of the onslaught now being launched against Mr William Benyon's Private Member's Bill to reform the present abortion law and prevent abuses. Such is the frantic rage of the bitter minority who oppose it that they are prepared to stop at no abuse of procedure to defeat it before it reaches the Select Committee.

Last week they even had a spurious motion moved on the floor of the House "spying Strangers" in the public gallery, solely to cause a division and disrupt proceedings in the standing committee which is examining the Bill upstairs.

Inside the committee itself, they have embarked on a sustained filibuster of points of order in which they make no excuses about their objective of destroying the Bill by any means. That frightening lady Mrs Renée Short, for example, delivered a mammoth speech of no relevance at all, enumerating every available fact about Mr Benyon, from his farming to his governorship of schools and membership of parish councils.

A first reaction might be: well why not? What right has Mr Benyon to expect to get his Bill if his opponents can manage to use the procedures of the House to stop him? The answer is that it depends on whether the procedures are being used by a minority to frustrate the will of the majority—and the fact is that they are.

Let me encapsulate the history. In 1967, the present law was passed as a Private Member's Bill sponsored by Mr David Steel and with the active help of the then Home Secretary, Mr Roy Jenkins, who helped find time for it. Subsequently, the select committee reported grave abuses were revealed. Some were financial; some related to the termination of pregnancy on demand (which was never the intention of many who supported the original Act) and many of them late pregnancies.

In 1964, a Labour MP, Mr James White, a Scottish Protestant, produced a Bill to deal with abuses in the abortion law. Such was the public concern about the prevailing state of things that the House of Commons gave it a second reading by a substantial majority. Everyone knew that the pro-abortion Department of Health and Social Security opposed this. Nevertheless, Sir Harold Wilson's Government decided to constitute a select committee to which the Bill was committed.

The work of this committee under Mr Fred Willey was thorough and relevant. The extreme pro-abortionists in it therefore became so alarmed that they decided to frustrate it by walking off. The select committee nevertheless carried on, and produced a report recommending legislative changes to reform the abuses it had established.

The Government, by a gentleman's agreement with Mr White, when he originally agreed to remit his own Bill to the select committee, had promised to legislate on its basis. The select committee's report, but it has been broken off. The majority who oppose the White Bill is still part of the bargaining with Mr Steel for the Lib-Lab pact.

But since the collapse of the Devolution Bill, Mr. Foot has found time for the Benyon (Homeless) Bill which is sponsored by a Liberal private member and is part of the bargaining with Mr Steel for the Lib-Lab pact.

As a result, when Mr William Benyon drew a place in the private member's ballot, he decided to bring in a Bill to implement some of the recommendations to remove abuses dealing (for instance) with the termination of late pregnancies after 20 weeks, financial questions concerning abortion agencies and the medical certification needed to secure abortion. The "social causes" clause of the present Act is unaffected.

Mr Benyon's Bill, like Mr White's,

was given a substantial majority on second reading on February 25. The will of a majority of the House is therefore being frustrated by the filibuster of a minority in committee.

Of course, it is perfectly proper for the opponents of any Bill to try to amend it in their direction and, if they can, to water it down as far as possible in committee. But it is an abuse of democratic principle for the minority in committee to attempt to destroy it in toto by obstruction through abuses of procedure.

Yet even this is not the worst aspect of the treatment that this Bill, based on the serious findings of the investigation of a select committee, is receiving. For it would be perfectly possible for the Government to find more time for it as, in honour bound, it ought to do in view of its original promise to Mr White.

But Mr Michael Foot, as Leader of the House (who is supposed to represent the interests of the House as a whole as well as the Government) has refused to do it.

Mr Foot who personally dislikes the Benyon Bill (which is also opposed by the Department of Health and Social Security where the more extreme pro-abortion lobby is strongly entrenched) as does the Secretary of State for the DHSS, Mr David Ennals, takes his stand ostensibly on a procedural point. He says that he sees no reason for interfering with what he calls "normal procedure" by finding time.

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can be carried out administratively. They are all matters that depend on legislation. My Hon Friend can say "I don't like them, and I will not legislate". But he cannot say that the Government can carry out any of these recommendations without resorting to legislation."

The dishonesty of the exercise lies in the Government's pretence that this is a "free vote" conscience issue, with the Whips off (as indeed they are). For Ministers are using the Government's control of the procedures of the House to study what would happen if the free vote were allowed to express itself.

Governments make much of the "free votes" in conscience legislation. It is, indeed, a good thing that MPs should be free to judge issues where party considerations do not or ought not to apply according to their consciences. But the appearance of free dom conceals a different reality. Governments pick and choose the "conscience" legislation they will sit. By so doing, they get what they (or their departments) want, without having to take responsibility for it.

A government was prepared to assist the original Abortion Bill of 1967, out of parts of which the present troubleflow. Yet the Government will not assist the return of that measure, despite two minorities in the House, the investigation of a select committee and the opposition of such moderate MPs as Mr Willey, Sir Bernard Braine and Mr Benyon who are not anti-abortion hard-liners.

Let me end on a simple point. Medical opinion has established that the present upper limit of 28 weeks for abortions (thought in 1967 to be appropriate) is wrong because foetuses approaching this age can survive. At present, they sometimes are destroyed alive. This can only be dealt with by a Bill and the Benyon Bill substances 20 weeks. What possible justification can the Government have for not acting on this?

What is happening in the House of Commons is not free parliamentary voting on a matter of conscience but a mockery of it.

# Despite the police hard line will sentences be cut?

The momentum of moves to shorten prison sentences is increasing. As was made clear in a speech to a conference of the Howard League for Penal Reform on Monday, Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, supports the view expressed last month by the Advisory Council on the Penal System that prison sentences are on average too long. The council is at present reviewing maximum penalties.

Prison governors are also calling for shorter sentences. They and prison officers are aware of the trouble that can be caused by the appalling overcrowding in prison and shortage of money to deal with it. The riot at Hull—subject of a Home Office report—and the low morale of prison officers at their annual conference displayed the need for urgent action.

The police do not like the idea of greater leniency, however. The view of the Police Federation is that sentences towards criminals have already become too soft. And prison officers have complained that money lavished on prisoners' comforts has been at the expense of proper conditions for themselves. The police remain unconvinced by figures showing that greater reliance in prison on imprisonment than in many countries abroad.

What is needed is convincing evidence from within Britain to show that shorter sentences can be cut without crime increasing; and that regimes harder than exist now would be less effective in reducing crime than greater leniency in sentencing.

That evidence, long forgotten but with direct relevance to today, was provided in Victorian England. *The Times* of January 1857 contains a letter from Mr Charles H. Hopwood, Recorder of Liverpool, telling how, despite opposition he cut sentences. Not only did this cause no increase in crime, but his action was followed by a dramatic reduction in it.

The average length of sentence for each prisoner convicted in 1856 was one year one month and six days. The average sentence passed by Mr Hopwood was two months and 22 days.

He said in his letter: "If I had continued the old system, the imprisonment in the six years I have presided would have reached a total of 2,967 years, whereas mine was in fact 1,618 years, showing a remission, or decrease, of 2,349 years and 10 months, or 31% years abroad."

The annual report of the then chief constable of Liverpool commented: "Never since the first publication of returns of crime in Liverpool—since 1857—have these statistics disclosed so small an amount of crime, or so large a success in making criminals amenable to justice, as those for the year ended September 29, 1851. The number of indictable offences committed during the year was 3,320, being 907 less than the year previous.

"Each class of crime shares in the general improvement. Burglary, housebreaking, etc., continue to decrease, there having been only 353 cases during the year against 610 last year and 633 the year previous. Serious cases of violence have



Detainees at the magistrate's court.

been 201, while last year they were 347 and the year previous 222."

Mr Hopwood argued, as many criminologists and penal reformers do today, that more severe sentences are as effective as excessive ones in the prevention of crime. He said with a force only possible when based on solid evidence: "If in six years we may reduce 2,000 and 2,500 years of imprisonment and yet leave 2,000 and 2,500 men safer in society, in Liverpool, we may be encouraged to employ similar moderation in every court in the country."

He added: "At least two-thirds of imprisonments inflicted could be dispensed with."

Many, including police hardliners, believe that stiffer punishments deter. Prison regimes in Victorian times were tougher than now. Yet in Liverpool, harsher sentences were no more effective than lenient ones in curbing crime. Indeed, in 1851, the average length of sentence was 30 weeks. What possible justification can the Government have for not acting on this?

What is happening in the House of Commons is not free parliamentary voting on a matter of conscience but a mockery of it.

Peter Evans

## Auctions for export

It's been a big week for the London auction houses, with Sotheby's going public and Phillips, the third largest, announcing that they are opening in New York. Not only do these developments underline the fact that auctioneering is now big business but also that it is a business whose profits have radically changed over the past 20 years.

In the 1950s every Western country had its own local auctioneers. You went to the capital, perhaps, to sell your more important works of art but the rare custodian collector thought of sending his goods out of the country for sale. If he did it would probably have been London or Paris, the two major art centres.

The early sixties saw two important changes in this pattern. First, London began to overtake Paris and as it burst up into the world's art centre for art, more and more foreign clients began to consign their property for sale there. Secondly, Sotheby's acquired New York's leading auction house, Parke-Bernet.

In fact, the 1950s and early 1970s were London's heyday as an art centre. The better Sotheby's and Christie's did the more works of art poured into London for sale. And foreign dealers poured into London to buy them.

But selling for foreign clients had its problems. The goods had to be inspected and advised on in all corners of the globe. Auction experts were constantly flying round the world, prices that was bought only and size computing. So Christie's and Sotheby's began to open offices abroad with

local staff who could visit and advise local clients.

The next step, of course, was to hold sales abroad. Sotheby's now sell in New York, Amsterdam, Zurich, Monte Carlo, Florence, Hongkong and Johannesburg. Christie's hold regular sales in Australia and Canada, Geneva and Rome.

They opened a permanent sales room in New York last month.

This has enabled Phillips to take over their old premises in Madison Avenue where they hope to start holding regular auctions in the autumn.

So now we are back to square one. All the major countries of the Western world use their local salerooms. The only difference is that the local salerooms are subsidiaries of London firms. Well, it isn't quite like that. Christie's and Sotheby's never did too well in Germany which still relies on locally based firms; by law foreign auctioneers cannot operate in France and the homegrown firms, after a period of eclipse, are now profiting from the trend back to local sales.

With Sotheby's, Christie's and Phillips all competing there, the place now to watch is New York.

The impact of Phillips is going to be particularly interesting. As in London they plan to undercut the other two, charging 10 per cent commission rather than around 20%; this is likely to appeal to hardened American businessmen. From a business point of view, they differ from Sotheby's and Christie's in refusing to allow the sale of costly items to the Communist Party and the Writers' Union.

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For us communists in particular these were among the

## Ten years after the Prague Spring, little hope of an end to discontent for Czech writers

It was 10 years ago this week that the fourth Congress of Czechoslovak writers began in Prague and the simmering conflict between the intelligentsia and their boorish Stalinist, President Novotny, burst into the open.

In the repression that followed several prominent writers were expelled from the Communist Party and the Writers' Union was robbed of its newspaper and their editor, the magazine *Tvaroznik*, banned by the censors in spite of its unashamed support of the dissident staff.

The ultimate suppression of the Prague Spring showed, some will say, that the earlier enthusiasm had also been an illusion. But for members of my generation, whichever side we had taken during the post-war years, these successive waves of hope had been anything but misleading.

Our efforts to change the system pointed along an unexplored path. Those who stood in our way were men of no great astuteness, but they made up in power for what they lacked in reason and they were entirely ruthless.

By the beginning of 1967 we had made some progress but the famous was still refining, and the authorities were clearly preparing for a massive counter-attack. The very decision to convene a fourth writers' congress seemed anomalous.

The writers had long been demanding one and the party leadership, to avoid a show-down, had been equally tenacious in postponing it. When a date was finally fixed the prospects for change for the worse as seen from Prague appeared more gloomily probable than at any time since 1961; in Slovakia particularly there was a rising tide in favour of accepting the status quo and in the general atmosphere of timidity we seemed to be in for another episode of Czech-type "consolidation"—meaning that anyone who spoke up would be sacrificed to the public.

For us communists in particular these were among the

most exciting and hopeful periods of our lives; we seemed once more to have some realistic reason d'être instead of being objects of political manipulation, prisoners of our own illusions and other men's walls.

The ultimate suppression of the Prague Spring showed, some will say, that the earlier enthusiasm had also been an illusion. But for members of my generation, whichever side we had taken during the post-war years, these successive waves of hope had been anything but misleading.

Accordingly they made sure that a copy reached the forum. The following day it was almost the sole topic of discussion at a closed meeting of Communist Party writers held, as usual, on the eve of the congress itself.

At this meeting, however, the senior party officials showed that the slight understanding that the protesters were now resolved to fight for the principles they had been urging in past years. On the contrary, they hardened their line and language still further.

Whether it was an unthinking reflex-action, or a deliberate plan for a showdown, was unclear; I am inclined to the former explanation. In any case the effect was to persuade the dissenters that any chance for plain speaking the congress offered might be the last they would get for a long time, and hence better be seized.

So when on the first day Pavel Kohout, with the full support of the congress, read out the text of Solzhenitsyn's recent letter to the writers' congress, the machinery of repression began to turn. At first speed, then more slowly, as the mood of the congress changed, and when it was over it was at a snail's pace.

I had finished the draft of my own speech—after much discussion of it among friends—only the night before. When I asked Vaclav Klima (then two other writers who were to be the first out of the party) as they left the first session

whether they would ask for the floor on the second day, they were non-committal. Eventually one did in a mood to decide, hardly or even to discuss the matter much; it was too much a manner of personal conscience, and the risks too great to involve others.

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## HERE ELSE WILL THEY GET JOBS?

Grunwick picketing were place in South Africa or in the United States everyone would have seen the colour of the streets around the population is about mixed: about half the one meets are coloured our half are white. Within a hundred yards of the there is one of the best restaurants in London Indian restaurant easily the other places which English dishes. At the site predominantly white crowd, small minority of coloured ones to stop a bus largely coloured people getting jobs. Mr Arthur Scargill tough-looking group of miners from Yorkshire to the Asian workers.

true that the workers t. and those who stayed largely coloured. But majority of coloured workers have shown astonish-

ment to Grunwick. They are for an obvious

An immigrant commu-

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and Mr Ward is oper-

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not an isolated example,

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es could not have come

## DOSING THE RIGHT BOMBER

has voted to authorize funding for the B-1 which, at a total estimated cost of 24,500 million threatens to become the expensive weapon system produced. It is certainly the most controversial. Carter is expected to final decision on the today and judging from documents and counter's of the past seven years several million Americans would like to make it. But it is questionable if it is yet in a position to

ument against the B-1 it is very costly, and dispute that. Another while a generation ahead of it, by no means comprehensive answer to questions raised over the manned strategic air-cannot, for instance, sonic at low level, it is not far short of

Strategic Air Command for the B-1 is treated with some SAC have already seen project collapse and are dably worried about the long-range force if the B-1 also into oblivion.

## Investment

Chairman of The Stock

osing the buyers of part the holding of British

The Government has no favour towards the saver. What a good time, a welcome reversal of Government policy. For (and not just during of the last few years) the Government's policy has not the individual saver, in particular by discrimination for securing his savings in British industry and

## Choice of Union

From Dr M. J. Gillibrand Sir, How reassuring it was to read in *The Times* of Friday, June 24, that Mr Clive Jenkins is pledged to respect the results of ballots in deciding recognition issues in industrial relations.

Promised we will now accept the decision of 9,270 of ICI's management and professional staff that their conditions of employment should be settled by negotiations between the company and the Association of Professional Scientists and Technologists. After all, they had voted in a ballot conducted by an independent organization in which 81 per cent of a 90 per cent poll chose to be represented by APST.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE GILLIBRAND, Executive Secretary,

WALTER S. GREENWOOD, Assistant Editor (Training), Thomson Regional Newspapers Limited, Editorial Training Centre, 9 Biggs Market, Newcastle upon Tyne. June 27.

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into existence, or expanded, if they did not have a competitive edge, and the only edge they could have is low labour costs and a willing labour force not restricted by trade union attitudes. They are not necessarily good employers, but they are employers, and if they thrive their employment practices usually improve.

The massive reaction of the trade union movement, including the most extreme and oppressive threats, and including actual illegality, shows what a serious challenge Grunwick presents, small as the scale of operation is. Trade union leaders understand instinctively, though few of them would admit formally, the relationship between trade union activity and employment.

A market determines the price for all goods, at the point at which the last available goods are sold. If there are one thousand bananas on the market the price of bananas will be the price of the last banana; that is known as the market clearing price or, as the principle of the marginal determination of prices. If the price of goods is artificially raised then not all of the goods will be sold. We see an example of this in the butter mountain. In a free market all the butter produced in Europe would be sold. Some is not sold because the price of butter is artificially maintained above the market clearing level.

The function of trade unions in respect of wages is the same as that of the common agricultural policy in respect of European food prices. Their function is to obtain higher pay for their members than would be set if there were a free market for labour. This is a perfectly reasonable thing for members of trade unions to want; it must be set in the interest of those who are actually in employment that their pay should be as high as possible. Unfortunately, in the labour market as in the butter market, when the price is raised above the market clearing level the market is not cleared. The natural consequence of strong trade unions is therefore that those in employment should be paid above the market clearing level, but that part of the labour force should be unable to find employment. An artificial price

effect of such an agreement upon his judgment? This is of course to assume that the strategic triad of land, sea and air-based deterrence should be maintained.

The most sensible option would seem to be that preferred by the Pentagon, which is for a mix of B-52s armed with Cruise missiles, and a force of up to 150 B-1s, which would be cheaper than the present target of 244 B-1s on their own. This would allow the modified B-52s, each armed with 20 Cruise missiles to concentrate on less well-defended targets in the Eastern Soviet Union while the B-1s with their better penetration would have their own short-range attack missiles (SRAMs) to deal with more distant, better defended objectives.

With so much depending on a 'SALT' agreement, and with the need to impose further constraints on offensive weapons still of paramount importance, this compromise can only be a holding option. But it would provide the United States with political flexibility in the short term and military flexibility in the long term. President Carter should therefore press on with a more limited B-1 programme, while preserving the right to adjust his priorities later.

## Reporting restrictions

From Mr Walter S. Greenwood

Sir, It is surprising that a professional journalist, such as Mr Michael Bowler, should imply (June 27) that the only legal restrictions that affect newspapers, chiefly in court reporting, "is probably that journalists in no other country in Western Europe have to wade through such a labyrinth of

laws. He had a notion that, if letters cost less (one penny, I think, was that he had in mind), then people would send more of them and postal services would be profitable.

I have no idea what became of his scheme, but as letters now cost three and a half times as much as they did then, might it not be a good time to see whether Hill's plan would work?

Yours faithfully,  
QUENTIN CREWE,  
Netherst Hey,  
Madeley,  
Crewe,  
Cheshire.  
June 21.

Very much an identify people in this country with industry and trade. We encourage the investment in people's savings in industry and trade. Direct owners of the best forms of participation leads to understanding of the business and of the society of successful

P sale sets the scene for of political attitudes we getting somewhere study.

GOODISON,

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of social evil have all too often rushed legislation which in turn affects the freedom of report without consideration of the issues involved.

In the North East of England last week for instance, a man who was accused of rape but convicted of wounding, was jailed for four years and was not named by the newspapers, because, rightly or wrongly, they interpreted the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1975 as preventing them from doing so. It cannot be in the public interest to have secret jailings such as this.

Will we reach the situation where rumour and speculation can spread in a district because the name of a defendant has been withheld? 1984 has arrived already in some respects, it seems.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE GILLIBRAND, Executive Secretary,

WALTER S. GREENWOOD, Assistant Editor (Training), Thomson Regional Newspapers Limited, Editorial Training Centre, 9 Biggs Market, Newcastle upon Tyne. June 27.

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## The Grunwick dispute: comparing wage rates

From Professor Alan Day

Sir, Mr David Steel, writing in *The Times* on June 27 about the Grunwick dispute, discusses the "right of exploited and underpaid workers" to join a union. The right should be broad question. But it should also be qualified question, the Grunwick workers were underpaid even before the 25 per cent increase in basic rates which has apparently come in the last year. A sensible basis of comparison lies between the most recent statements of wage rates and earnings at Grunwick, to be found in the responsible press, and national average rates for women and girls published by the Department of Employment.

One recent responsible report

of the sort) was that Mrs Desai (one of the series) started as a part-time on £0.73 per hour. In April 1974 average hourly pay rates for women's earnings in all industries were £0.573 per hour. Another responsible report indicates that last year basic pay (apparently for 35-hour week) was between £29.60 and £55.20-4 from about £0.68 to about £1.58 per hour. In April 1976 average adult women's earnings for full-time manual work under 18 per hour was £0.68 per hour.

While all such comparisons are notoriously difficult, and while it also has to be accepted that rising wage rates are probably higher in London than the national average, it must be concluded that the evidence for the view that Grunwick workers were underpaid, even before the recent sharp increases, is hardly persuasive.

Sir Michael's characterization of a mass picker as a baying mob bent on intimidation is clearly an overgeneralization. A peaceful mass picker is a lawful exhortation to solidarity. If such a mass picker engages in intimidation or violence, then, as Sir Michael himself points out, the law covers the situation in Section 7 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875.

The key legal issue is therefore not the number of persons involved in a picket, but their conduct.

If the police physically prevent pickets from exercising their peace legal rights, then it is hardly surprising that angry scenes develop. Indeed, it could be argued that in so doing the police are acting without lawful authority themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN FROST, Secretary, Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staffs (Legal Workers' Branch), 38 Avenue Road, N6. June 28.

From Mr R. N. Vallance

Sir, The reported comments of Sir Michael Havers, QC (*The Times*, June 28) seem to manifest again that dangerous ambivalence towards the legal rights of trade unionists that has characterised Conservative policy in industrial relations matters. Sir Michael describes the law on picketing as conveying an "immunity" not a "right". This is surely a complete distortion of the purpose of legislation on this subject.

The main "right" is implied in legislation in the field of civil law—the protection of a lawful picker from a civil action for incitement to breach contract. The major function of legislation on this subject since the original 1875 Act has been to state and reinforce that the right to peacefully picket exists in statute.

Sir Michael's argument, taken to its logical conclusion, would restore the legal status of picketing to the pre 1875 position. He states that it is a myth that a picker has the right to stop a person or a vehicle, however briefly, to peacefully communicate information. If that were the case, then the peaceful picker

## Futures of Europe

From Lord Kennet

Sir, When did anything to raise the spirits last come out of Brussels? Here is a case history.

Once upon a time the European Community had a far sighted Commissioner who got fed up with seeing it hurch from midday morass to midnight crisis and back again, and decided to use all his imagination in getting the long-term view into European policy making. He proposed that the Commission should, propose to the Council (which is how you have to proceed) that a study should be made of the problem. The Council was impressed; not only was he right, they decided, but the whole thing was extremely urgent. They voted a lot of money and demanded that the study should be finished within a year.

The Commissioner decided to choose not a safe grey committee to conduct the inquiry but a tacless and independent-minded writer, an ex-junior minister from a newly joined country. The latter gathered forty extremely distinguished people from all the Community countries (Europeans are in favour of Europe) and reported, within a year as demanded.

The forty people said you can get the long-term view so long as 1) you have an active tenor committee, 2) said team, while being the Committee's own, not set up inside the Commission; 3) limit it to the single sector of scientific research and development?

No, said the forty; it would be worse.

They reported. The President of the European Confederation of Trade Unions and the European Committee on Research and Development were among those who endorsed the report. Today (after taking nearly two years to consider it) the Commission is, I understand, to recommend to the Council of Ministers that they should do the same thing.

Major Digby Tatham-Warter, whose exploits with an umbrella have passed into Airborne legend, becomes—somehow else—I didn't even catch the name—and is made to succumb to his "wounds" in a cellar. According to Cornelius Ryan he was certainly alive in the early 1970s so he may have the intriguing experience of seeing himself die on celluloid.

The Anglican chaplain, Padre Páez, is ecumenically transformed into a Roman Catholic priest, member of the papal household.

Do not those whose names are actually in the history books deserve to be treated as themselves? Why do the Afternoons of this world play God with men's hard-earned reputations, bought frequently in the face of violent death? How would Sir Richard like to be called "Jim Smith" simply to save the public from confusing him with his animal-loving brother?

In war, truth is said, to be the first casualty. And not, if seems, in war only. The cinema will gladly murder it to order.



answered  
questions in  
Chiasso  
uir, page 21

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Compulsory plan or inflation counting killed uring ballot

Today first  
chance of compulsory in-  
adjusted accounts being  
either in the form or  
to the timescale laid  
by the steering group  
by Mr Douglas Morpeth  
closely ended yesterday.  
Statement from the  
Standards Committee  
the ruling body of  
of the account-  
confirms that  
against compulsory in-  
accounting due to be  
by the Institute of  
Accountants in Eng-  
land and Wales next Wednesday  
won even before it is  
chartered accountants  
Mr Martin Haslam  
David Keymer, requi-  
re required number of  
as for a special meeting  
institute, to debate:

The members of the  
Chartered Accountants  
England and Wales do  
not system of current  
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so far counted are  
to be marginally in  
the resolution, causing  
obstruction to the  
of the profession, who  
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s of CCA were all  
in only the details to  
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port received for the  
added to the widely  
views contained in  
submissions sent in on  
Standards Exposure  
prepared by Mr Morpeth,  
and resulted or  
recommendation of  
by the Accounting  
Committee when it  
day.

Statement read: "To be  
accounting standards generally acceptable to  
users of

Recognition of this  
fundamental to any  
which ASC proposed  
standard by the  
any bodies."

The ASC does not  
so many words, it is  
clear that no generally  
standard is attainable.

The Draft 18 is gener-  
ight within the pro-  
have been a failure  
criticised for being  
tive, too complicated,

though some voices  
raised privately for  
action of Mr Morpeth  
chairmanship of the  
committee, and for a  
time to be formed,  
been made publicly,

### 00 working lost in May gh strikes

st through strikes in  
uring May totalled  
the same as the  
May figures bring  
for the year to  
which is already more  
number lost in the  
976. At this stage of  
just over 1.3 million  
ays had been lost.

ers 244 strikes involv-

workers in May,  
the total number of  
this year, to 1,087,  
to figures in the De-

of Employment

set also shows that  
the workers in the  
April 23 was down  
a seasonally adjusted  
15.78 million hours  
million hours in the  
mid-March.

April it is estimated  
er cent of the work-  
an overtime, with  
1.8 million workers

On average they  
5 hours, down from  
irs a week which was  
an estimated 35.3

f workers in March.



### Fall in dollar hastened by doubts over US economy

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent  
A wave of heavy selling all  
over the world drove the value of  
the dollar down everywhere  
yesterday. There were heavy  
gains for most of the strong  
currencies and some of the  
weak ones, with the Japanese  
yen being the biggest winner.  
However, the Bank of  
England intervened on  
the market to keep the value of the  
pound steady at \$1.72/10, taking  
more dollars into the already  
large reserves in the process.  
Sterling's trade-weighted index  
fell from 61.5 to 61.3 because  
other currencies were allowed  
to float up.

The selling wave started in  
Tokyo yesterday morning  
before Europe was even awake,  
with a fall of around 1 per cent  
in the United States currency's  
value against the yen to  
268.75. When the European  
exchanges opened they saw that  
there had been an attempt to  
slow the dollar's fall in Tokyo  
assumed that there would be  
a similar inactivity in Europe  
and were proved right as  
Deutsche marks, Swiss francs  
and a rag-bag of other  
currencies gained ground.

In the afternoon, a new sport  
to the selling pressure came  
from the release of figures in  
America which showed that  
leading indicators had fallen  
0.2 per cent in May. This is the  
first such decline this year,  
apart from the freak weather  
month of January, and it served  
to fuel doubts about United  
States performance.

The real force behind the  
decline, however, is that  
markets are now beginning to  
take seriously the agreement  
reached in Paris at the end of  
last week in which finance  
ministers pledged themselves  
to allow currency adjustments  
to bring about payment  
balance. The purpose of this  
is to allow strong currencies  
like the yen and mark to go  
up, thus reducing the heavy  
current account surpluses run  
by countries such as Japan and  
Germany.

This is exactly what is hap-  
pening now, though the pro-  
cess is naturally more turbulent  
than it might appear in the  
rather dry language of an offi-  
cial communiqué.

The agreement did not aim  
at the dollar as a currency  
which has to be devalued, but  
the process of parity setting  
means that as some of the  
strong currencies go up the  
dollar automatically comes  
down.

Also beginning to exert an  
influence are the slight  
tremors of concern over the  
way in which the United States  
has drifted into a current  
account deficit estimated at  
around \$12,000m (about  
£7,000m) for this year.

### UK anti-dumping task switches to Brussels

By Edward Townsend

The Department of Trade  
yesterday announced the results  
of six anti-dumping investiga-  
tions, the last before responsi-  
bility for dealing with com-  
plaints about imports passes  
from the United Kingdom to  
the European Commission in  
Brussels.

In five cases, the department  
received satisfactory undertakings  
about future price levels; and  
in the sixth case, involving PVC  
tablecloth from Hungary and  
East Germany, no dumping was  
found.

Despite the switch to  
Brussels, the Department of  
Trade's anti-dumping unit is to  
continue in operation. Its staff  
of 18 is double the size of the  
European Commission anti-  
dumping section, and reflects  
the much larger number of com-  
plaints from British industries  
compared with their counter-  
parts in other EEC countries.

It is expected that many  
United Kingdom industries will  
continue to make initial ap-  
proaches to the department,

which will assist in the draw-  
ing up of formal applications  
to Brussels, although in some  
cases, such as the recent Euro-  
pean protest about Japanese  
ball bearing imports where in-  
dustry have strong inter-  
Europe ties, it will now be  
possible to make direct applica-  
tions to the Commission.

The department said yester-  
day it was studying about 15  
applications for anti-dumping  
action, and would be discuss-  
ing with the industries con-  
cerned the question of submit-  
ting them to Brussels.

It has two outstanding cases  
that have been accepted for  
full investigation concerning  
special steels from Sweden and  
Austria and, in the latter case,  
a departmental team is still in  
Vienna completing a lengthy  
investigation.

The Commission takes over  
anti-dumping inquiries tomorrow  
when the transitional period for United Kingdom  
membership of the EEC ends.  
All products except those  
covered by the Treaty of Paris  
which established the European  
Coal and Steel Community,  
will be covered.

### Bank admits dividend error

Standard Chartered Bank,  
whose chairman is Lord Barber,  
the former Chancellor, admitted  
yesterday it had made a  
mistake over its dividend calcula-  
tions for the financial year to  
the end of March.

Increased payments for  
shareholders were announced  
yesterday less than 24 hours  
after the board indicated that  
shareholders were being given  
"maximum" payments by rais-  
ing the total distribution by 10  
per cent to £11.3m.

It appears that the Standard  
Chartered directors misinter-  
preted the Treasury rules for  
dividend increases, which allow  
companies to raise their gross  
dividend a share by 10 per cent.

After talks with Treasury  
officials Standard Chartered  
announced they had been  
given permission for a further  
increase in the dividends.

Shareholders' final payment  
for the past financial year is  
now being lifted from 14.4p a  
share gross announced yester-  
day to 15.9p a share.

### E RAKUSEN GROUP LIMITED

Half year results to 31st December 1976 (unaudited)

	1976	1975
£	£	£
Profit	63,400	59,900
Profit	94,400	92,900
Profit	68,600	71,700
Fore taxatio	25,300	21,200

Food division made the major contribution to the half  
its despite the continued burden of the Meawood Road  
and the interruption of production resulting from the  
last November.

new tank plant has been installed in the factory at  
Voorhees and is now operational and the current order  
is promising.

Property division activities continue to be limited to  
ice developments.

Following the Secretary of State's decision dated 12th May,  
imposing the purchase notice served by the company on  
parties in respect of the premises at Meawood Road,  
and regarding the company's claim against the corporation  
and the successful conclusion to these negotiations will  
be of effect on both the liquidity and profitability of  
the company.

R. Minton, Chairman.

29th June, 1977.

### How the markets moved

Rises

Ayer Hitam	10p to 350p
BPE Ind	6p to 175p
Hawker Sidde	10p to 670p
Heath C. E.	7p to 637p
Milford Docks	7p to 30p

Falls

Aberdeen Com	5p to 74p
Byron	10p to 375p
Cad & Lamb	2p to 39p
Crillion Holdings	10p to 21p
Cutter Guard	10p to 15p
Knaf	10p to 325p
Laporte	5p to 105p
Lucas	20p to 285p
Ocean Trans	5p to 145p

Equities were in subdued mood.

Gold was unchanged at \$142.625.  
SDR-S was 1.16438 on Wednesday.  
SDR-E was 0.76572.

Sterling gained 7 pps to \$1.7210.  
The effective exchange rate index  
was at 1.571.3 (previous 1.571.7).

Reports, pages 23 and 25

### On other pages

Business appointments

Appointments vacant

Bank Base Rate Table

Annual statements:

Electra Investment Trust

GEI International

Hickling Pentecost

share gross announced yester-  
day to 15.9p a share.

### THE POUND

Spear & Jackson

Swan Hunter

Trust Re Forte

Union Corp

Prop Hidge

Section 1st

Sentient

Shell

Steep Rock

Sunbeam W'sey

Whittingham W.

Winkelhaak

5p to 142p

5p to 55p

5p to 112p

5p to 125p

5p to 210p

5p to 270p

5p to 415p

5p to 125p

5p to 155p

## Managers ask how to handle new wage deals

By Malcolm Brown

Managers' leaders yesterday urged the Government to give clear guidance to management and unions on how to deal with pay negotiations if there was no agreement between the end of phase two and the start of another agreed phase of pay policy.

A delegation from the British Institute of Management, led by Mr Michael Edwards, a vice-chairman, told Mr Healey, the Chancellor, that there was growing concern among companies due to start a new round of negotiations in the late summer.

They were afraid that if no agreement had been reached on a new phase of pay policy before the expiry of the present phase, they would be negotiating in an atmosphere of uncertainty.

The BIM team, which says the Chancellor for 30 minutes stressed the need to adhere to the rule that there should be 12 months between principal pay increases.

Mr Edwards said: "Our chief purpose was to discuss BIM's proposals for the next phase of pay policy, which are based on a recognition of the manager's deteriorating position in the pay structure of the country: on the need to ease the squeeze on differentials; and on the need to provide incentives within overall constraint."

The key fight, he said, was against inflation. To help win the fight it was essential to get the right mix of a flexible pay policy and reductions in income tax. The last Budget had been a first step in the right direction and must be followed by consistent economic and fiscal policies.

"We reminded the Chancellor of BIM's view that there should be a long-term plan to reduce the total tax burden.

## Bank favours cuts in national insurance levies

A fall in the real cost of labour, relative to its productivity, has created conditions favourable to the expansion of employment and output, says the latest *Williams Bank Review*.

But it questions whether there is the demand to support the expansion given the slow growth in personal consumption, the fall in the public sector deficit and the prospects for foreign trade and domestic investment.

A case might be made, therefore, for stopping proposed spending cuts. The Review prefers, however, to suggest that priority should go towards tax cuts (particularly National Insurance contributions).

## Study sets out need for 680,000 jobs

By David Blaikie

Britain will have to find an extra 680,000 jobs between now and 1981 just to keep unemployment steady, according to a study by the Department of Employment. Another million jobs will be needed in the five years to 1985.

The latest issue of the *Employment Gazette* contains projections for the labour force to 1986. According to the estimates the total male labour force will go up from 15,931,000

this year to 16,164,000 in 1981 and the female work force will go up to 10,570,000 from 10,122,000.

An increasing labour force is likely to cause major problems to governments in the years ahead as they struggle to keep down unemployment.

There are five main factors:

First and most important is the large number of 16-year-olds coming into the labour market from school, the result of the baby boom of the early 1960s.

The Government's programme of measures to help school leavers, announced yesterday, is a first step to try to grapple with this problem.

The second factor is that relatively few people will be retiring since those coming up to retirement age were born during the First World War when birth rates were low.

The third factor pushing up the number of people wanting work is the increasing tendency for married women to go out to work, a function of the sharp fall in the birth rate, which means that fewer of them are out of the labour market.

This is combined with greater attraction towards work now than job opportunities have improved.

Against this, the number of people staying on in full-time education is expected to go up, though this will to some extent be countered by a tendency for both men and women to go on working past retirement age.

## Pirelli to start 'task force' experiment to aid output

From John Earle

Rome, June 29

Industria Pirelli, the Italian manufacturing company of the Dunlop-Pirelli group, has reached agreement with the trade unions on "experimental introduction of work areas", in which teams of workers will be free to rotate tasks among their members.

The experiment initially will affect about 3,000 workers making tyres and some other goods, but will not apply to the cable sector.

Management, anxious to introduce the new method, will study possible output levels with worker representatives in relation to plant capacity for

each work area, and the management will set an overall piecework payment for the area, instead of the present individual piecework rates.

It is hoped the new method will increase productivity and raise average individual earnings by about 40 lire (2.7p) per hour. Workers in each area will be divided in two levels of technical skill, inside which they may share tasks.

The agreement has been welcomed by the chemical union federation and by the Pirelli works council as introducing a more modern structure for the organization of labour which will give them a closer insight into the firm's production plans.

## £670m annual food import saving possible by 1980, report says

By Craig Seton

Britain could reduce the cost of imported food by £670m a year by the early 1980s if investment in the country's agricultural industry improved to finance higher production, a report published yesterday by the Agricultural Economic Development Committee predicts.

But to achieve this, it says, profitability would need to be sufficiently high to give farmers a reasonable return on capital.

The main options for achieving higher profitability were increased food prices, lower taxation, a faster growth in productivity or more opportunities for seeking outside finance.

The report states that the White Paper's original target date of 1980 is no longer feasible as farm output and investment had fallen after two years of bad weather.

The recommendations of the report suggest a broad strategy for using available resources, including minimising agricultural land losses and constraints and improving productivity of available land.

The taxation report concentrated on the effects of income tax and capital transfer tax, and concluded that income tax does not represent a major burden on the industry, although on

the larger and more profitable farms, there were thought to be distortions in the timing and nature of investment.

The report recommends that a portion of the taxable income of farmers in a year of high returns should, within limits, be retained tax free.

It will be kept in a special reserve and only charged to tax when any amount is credited to the profit and loss account. The report also recommends that capital allowances for farm buildings and works should be improved.

On capital transfer tax, the report says that although the larger farming business in single ownership and the agricultural let estate let privately are likely to encounter severe problems, the great majority of farm businesses may not be seriously disrupted if they use to advantage the various exemptions and reliefs. It may be many years before the full annual burden of CTT on the industry is reached.

Various policy options could be used to alleviate financial problems, including an exception of capital tax legislation, the surrender of land to public ownership in lieu of capital taxes, additional sources of institutional finance and a raising of the level of farm prices.

The continuation of tax relief on mortgage interest and option-mortgage subsidy is also to be welcomed, but we would have wished to see a more positive line taken on increasing the £25,000 limit on house purchase loan admissible for tax relief.

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The first was that: "Foden's could well reject Rolls-Royce Motors' formal share offer, which, as expected, said nothing about how Rolls is faring." This is not so. Our offer document of May 30 spoke of current trading and included the statement: "Profits for the year to date are ahead of those for the equivalent period in 1976." This statement was repeated in the letter of June 27 containing the increased share offer.

Secondly your column said: "It is still not clear that Rolls has the money both to finance an expanding Foden's and

develop its own new car".

Again, I must refer you to our letter of May 30 in which we said: "The directors are of the opinion that, taking into account the bank and other facilities available, the enlarged RRM group will have adequate working capital for its present requirements. In relation to Foden's, the directors have resolved solely an published information in forming this assessment". I am sure you would not wish to imply that these statements are made lightly, or that in making them, we have not made ample allowance for the right financial circumstances admitted to exist at Foden's.

Yours faithfully,

J. J. PRASER

Chairman, Rolls-Royce Motors, 21 Montefield,

London EC2P 2HT.

June 29

## Unions' plea on chemicals investment

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

To government ministers will be told today that there is a crisis of confidence developing in Britain's petrochemical industry. Trade union leaders from the industry are to meet Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, to discuss what they consider to be a shortfall in effective United Kingdom investment in petrochemicals.

There has been considerable concern among union leaders over ICI's decision to develop a £240m chemicals complex in north Germany.

Mr David Warburton, national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and chairman of the Joint Chemical Trades Union Committee, said last night that the unions were concerned with the lack of firm commitment by industry to finding sufficient funds to ensure that North Sea oil resources were used not only for allied companies but for the nation.

"There is a crisis of confidence developing because companies do not seem anxious to honour the obligations we previously agreed," he said.

"This is the conflict of interest: we support North Sea oil exploitation for the sake of our own industries and jobs; major oil companies exploit it for profits," he added.

He suggested that to ensure the transfer of oil benefits to United Kingdom industries, tax concessions and investment aid could be withdrawn from companies whose aim was to benefit themselves and not the country.

Yesterday the Chemical Industries Association underlined the contribution that industry was making to the economy and said that total sales by the industry amounted to an estimated £11,000m last year.

## 120 Rolls-Royce men end strike

A strike by 120 engineers at the Rolls-Royce aero-engine plant at Hillington, Glasgow, is over. They decided yesterday to go back immediately, and the rest of the 3,700 workforce were expected to lift their support action of an overtime ban and policy of non-cooperation.

The strike began 10 days ago after the suspension of a man for "extreme carelessness", and union opposition to his downgrading.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The focus on national quality

From Mr N. T. Burgess

Sir, A letter from Mr Weinberg in your issue of June 23 refers to the economics of quality as it concerns manufacturers in this country and warns that measures may not be going in the right direction.

This is combined with greater attraction towards work now than job opportunities have improved.

Against this, the number of people staying on in full-time education is expected to go up, though this will to some extent be countered by a tendency for both men and women to go on working past retirement age.

Indeed, the attention now being focused on quality by customers (both home and abroad) is long overdue and in general the improvement in quality in many sectors of industry has a direct bearing on the efforts of several enthusiasts which stem from the National Quality Year organized in 1966.

It is wrong to generalize in such matters and, while profitability remains a prime objective of quality control, society

now demands that the safety of equipment be a prime concern of quality practitioners. The National Council for Quality and Reliability is a body comprising a large number of British enterprises who are dedicated to assisting industry, commerce and the Government in promoting the quality of all types of British products and services. It is also the United Kingdom member of the European organization, having similar objectives.

Yours etc,  
N. T. BURGESS,  
Chairman,  
National Council for Quality  
and Reliability,  
1 Bedford Walk,  
London SW1H 9JJ.

## Who is out of step in the EEC?

From Mr Stephan Schattmann

Sir, Commencing on the astounding contribution to your column by his colleagues Professor Lord Kaldor and Neil Ullman in June 1976, with its extraordinary blend of non sequiturs dressed as scientific fact and political blarney, Professor Frank Hahn, later of Cambridge (June 18), rightly warns them that their approach brings into disrepute even the modest contribution economics can make to any evaluation of EEC membership at the present time.

It is, frankly, depressing to see two of the most respected members of one's profession succumbing to the current vogue of blaming Britain's major structural problems on EEC membership. Everybody else it seems is out of step. And why not create a new kind of *Dolchstosslegende* if it suits the argument?

The Germans are guilty of a "beggar my neighbour" policy because their exports are increasing faster than ours to them.

The result: a mounting deficit on Britain's trade account with Germany. Of course, as Professor P. A. Reynolds reminded us on June 8 a deficit can be reduced by selling more or by importing less. But, surely, it cannot be argued that Britain would have sold more abroad by not being a member of the Community.

I am following the information below. The first column represents an increase/decrease of the first four months 1977 over 1976. The second is the latest inflation rate (12 months to April, 1977).

In the case of France Germany's surplus was cut by DM240m to DM1,300m, while Denmark managed to increase from DM1,200m to DM1,500m.

Could it be that the Germans are not all that efficient in improving their will on what

Professors Lord Kaldor and Neil describe as their "claims"?

I am writing these lines without access to the detailed trade accounts. It could be (though not very likely) that special factors account for all the figures given above. But even then the view put forward in this letter would be no less valid than the sweeping assertions of the two Cambridge professors.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHAN SCHATTMANN,  
65 Wigmore Street,  
London W1H 9LG.  
June 18.

## Fodens: Rolls-Royce has adequate capital

From Mr I. J. Fraser

Sir, I read with concern your market report comment on June 28 in which you made two statements which seemed to me unjustified.

The first was that: "Foden's could well reject Rolls-Royce Motors' formal share offer, which, as expected, said nothing about how Rolls is faring." This is not so. Our offer document of May 30 spoke of current trading and included the statement: "Profits for the year to date are ahead of those for the equivalent period in 1976."

This statement was repeated in the letter of June 27 containing the increased share offer.

Secondly your column said:

"It is still not clear that Rolls has the money both to finance an expanding Foden's and

develop its own new car". Here again, I must refer you to our letter of May 30 in which we said: "The directors are of the opinion that, taking into account the bank and other facilities available, the enlarged RRM group will have adequate working capital for its present requirements. In relation to Foden's, the directors have resolved solely an published information in forming this assessment". I am sure you would not wish to imply that these statements are made lightly, or that in making them, we have not made ample allowance for the right financial circumstances admitted to exist at Foden's.

Yours faithfully,

J. J. PRASER  
Chairman, Rolls-Royce Motors, 21 Montefield,  
London EC2P 2HT.

June 29

## Comparative taxation

From Mr D. G. Lindsay

Sir, Mr V. Green (June 23) complains that a single person over 65 years paying tax at an effective rate of 33 per cent when his income reaches £3,250.

As a reader of *The Times*, I expect paying tax at 50 per cent, and when my income reaches £9,886 (corresponding to £1,575 per family member) moves up to 60 per cent at £10,400 (corresponding to £2,280 per family member) and then on up to 65 per cent at £10,900 (corresponding to £2,180 per family member).

Further, the individual over 65 enjoys a tax threshold of £1,080, against my family's tax threshold of £1,896, although most reliable statistics confirm that my family's basic needs are about six times as costly as those of the single elderly man.

D. G. LINDSAY,  
8 Swansdown Field,  
Whitchurch-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire, RG6 7EP.

## Record Profits top £4m Orders at High Level

Specialist engineering group supplying wide range of industries

	1977	March 1976	% change





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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Beaverbrook and the non-voting issue

The debate over non-voting shares is to be slowly dying a natural death by one of the more prominent exponents of the writing on the wall from the companies Bill, which would have our such capital structures in the same they are banned in the United States, is and South Africa, or were forced to enfranchise by the need for fresh money from shareholders (as of Rank and Lyons, for example), verbrook takeover has again stirred particular hornet's nest.

Lyons' strategy is to concentrate hard on getting a better performance out of the remaining business—food manufacture and distribution. But that will only nibble at the debt mountain. Reducing debt by £10m or even £20m a year necessarily means a long haul, and that of course assumes there will be no more upsets of a less unconventional kind.

The aim apparently is to reduce gearing to around 50 per cent over the next four years from its present level of about 80 per cent. Allowing for this timescale the fact that the shares look superficially attractive on the basis of a p/e ratio of 6 is irrelevant.

Lyons has to be judged on its yield and the fact is that there are comparable income stocks to be found in the food sector among companies unaffected by the balance sheet problems which Lyons has to shoulder following its ill-fated attempt to become a major international foods company.

### Hambros

#### New areas of growth

Hambros incurred no exceptional losses on its shipping loans last year; but the group has felt it proper to step up its specific provisions against shipping debts, and with the tanker crisis likely to last until well into the 1980s, we may not have heard the end of that saga.

However, it is necessary to keep the group's involvement in perspective: though Hambros provides no breakdown, shipping loans are unlikely much to exceed 10 per cent of the banking subsidiary's total advances of £531m. Much more pertinent for shareholders is the question of which other areas of operation will provide the group with growth.

It isn't, on the face of it, going to be the traditional banking business, for total advances increased by only 10 per cent last

moment. The Panel appears happy to take the advice of Rothschilds, sent advisers to Beaverbrook sharehold, on what the premium should be, the voting shares up around the 1% there is no doubt that the market on a handsome premium whatever the Panel must avoid, however, is with any scheme simply for the expediency.

### 1-year of action

A share price has been strong on the view that the trading could be better than indicated in and that the dividend would be cut. Both expectations turn out to be wrong, reflecting profits, in fact, are third highest at £3.3m though this £4.3m, against £1.47m from business sold.

as enough to see the shares, 5p yesterday at 95p where the yield is 4%. However, those who see Lyons to hold for recovery on a year to view are missing the real point, course, is that trading profits of satisfactory though they are, are impact on Lyons' balance sheet. Drawings of some £240m remain as an adequate reminder of the desirability from which the group has only d to emerge.

charges, reflecting higher rates of the year to April and the switching overseas borrowings into expensive sterling loans, are up to £22.4m. This and exceptional £3.8m above the line and £9.5m mean an overall reduction of serves.

As it has taken a final bite on the cleared the decks. This year there are no exceptional debts—most of 176.77 are due to currency adjustments in South Africa where business turned out to be the last overturn.

While foreign debt has now cut (overseas assets are now in foreign borrowings), sterling looks up—hopefully for most of this

year—implying something of a setback in real terms—and loan demand continues flat. To some extent, however, this sluggishness has been offset by a big increase in bank financing, with acceptances up by 20 per cent but potentially more important in terms of profitability has been the bank's expansion into the relatively new areas of Eurocurrency finance—an expansion facilitated by the connexion with Prudential Assurance of America.

That apart it's the traditional areas of operation which are likely to provide the running from now on—not so much the money business, for which there won't be the same opportunities in the more stable conditions which are likely to prevail this year (though Hambros must have a comfortable profit on the £23m of gilts on the books at end-March already under its belt), but investment banking and corporate finance.

Associate Hambros Life can also be expected to make a handsome contribution, but despite the sales which have recently been arranged, the property associate Berkeley Hambros is likely to remain something of a dead letter in investment terms for the foreseeable future: the company is too busy paying off borrowings to have much money or energy to spare for expansion. Hambros looks, nevertheless, to have enough growth to come to lend some attractions to the shares, which at 175p yield 7.2 per cent.

Instead, Mr Kuhmeier, not only channelled the funds out-

## Unanswered questions in the Chiasso affair

The ability to assimilate bad news must rank as one of the more remarkable human qualities. For how else can one explain the enthusiastic applause that greeted a Crédit Suisse shareholder at last Friday's extraordinary general meeting in Zurich as he rounded off his speech with the words "Vive le Crédit Suisse"?

The meeting, which was extraordinary both in name and in nature, was called to discuss the losses arising from the activities of the management of the bank's branch in Chiasso. As is progressing in an overheated exhibition hall in the Zurich suburb of Oerlikon, it was easy to forget that the scandal, which had unfolded over the previous 10 weeks, is the most serious to hit Swiss banking since the Second World War, if not in living memory.

The Crédit Suisse, which is the oldest and prides itself on being the finest of the big three Swiss banks, faces losses which have been estimated at about 1,000m Swiss francs (£233m). The affair has brought into question the role of Swiss banks in channelling funds fleeing from other countries, especially in contravention of their regulations.

It has shown Swiss banking's internal and external controls to be inadequate. It has even become a political issue in a fundamentally non-political nation.

The first indication of what

Dr Oswald Aeppli, Crédit Suisse's chairman, described

last Friday as the "criminal act of a small clique" came in the evening of April 14.

With a sense number by subsequent revelations it is difficult to recall the shock and surprise caused by the first disclosures. The Crédit Suisse Chiasso, a by-word for solidity and conservatism in Swiss banking, announced that it faced a considerable loss because a large foreign customer of its Chiasso branch—an unnamed financial holding company—had been involved, or at least had an interest in Texon's difficulties.

The bank responded at the beginning of May by setting up a special commission of executive board members to investigate "at all levels" in its headquarters and the Chiasso branch.

Against a background of unsettled financial markets, rising anger in the Swiss press and questions before Parliament, the commission moved quickly. It cleared the bank's chairman, Dr Aeppli, but on May 10 the chief general manager, Dr Wulfli, resigned together with Mr Sergio Demiville, one of Crédit Suisse's deputy general managers.

At the same time Mr Felix Schutte, the former chairman, renounced the title of honorary chairman of the bank conferred on him at its 120th annual general meeting at the end of March this year.

The commission's report, which was presented in an abridged form to shareholders last week, found no criminal link between Zurich and Chiasso. However, Dr Wulfli and Mr Schutte had failed to act with sufficient resolution in the face of "signals" indicating that something was amiss.

Mr Demiville's departure, it emerged, was less to do with Chiasso than with as yet undefined losses arising from granting excessive loans to a Milan-based company, Molini Certosa.

The response of the share-

holders to the report and to Dr Aeppli's reckoning of the affair was overwhelmingly positive. It became apparent that the bank's management had no cause to fear opposition from the ranks of the meeting.

The funds were placed with

Mr Kuhmeier and his associates on a fiduciary basis. Under normal circumstances they would have been invested by the Crédit Suisse or in the Euromarket, with first class addresses at the customer's risk.

Instead, Mr Kuhmeier, not only channelled the funds out-

ward to an unchanged dividend for this year.

Much still to be explained about Texon—starting with the question of who owned it. The banking commission has said that Mr Kuhmeier founded it. Dr Aeppli said last week that according to Messrs Nosazzi and Nosazzi it belonged to customers of the Chiasso law firm. Their identity remains a mystery.

The motivation behind Mr Kuhmeier's actions is quite unclear. Also unanswered is the allegation brought by shareholders last week that his activities were the subject of coffee house gossip in Chiasso from the early 1970s.

The fact that the very top management of the Union Bank of Switzerland warned first Dr Wulfli in January, 1976, and then Mr Schultheiss in April of that year about Kuhmeier, is a possible indicator as to how far the gossip had spread by that time.

Other niggling doubts concern the Molini-Certosa affair, which lay behind Mr Demiville's resignation. Yet nobody asked whether there are the seeds of another Chiasso here.

Assuming that there are no further shocks on the way, it is possible to draw up an interim assessment of the implications of the affair for the Crédit Suisse. Because of the drain on its reserves, the bank seems set for a period of slower growth and faces a long slog to re-establish its once unimpeachable reputation.

Afterwards three Chiasso-based lawyers of the company were charged.

The lawyers, Messrs Alfredo Nosazzi, Elmo Gora and Alessandro Villa, were members of the board of Texon and had worked for many years from offices in the same building as Crédit Suisse Chiasso, 300 yards from the Swiss-Italian border.

As the affair unfolded and the vast sums of money involved came to light, speculation grew over whether or not the scandal extended beyond the southern Swiss canton of the Tessin. The fact that the three lawyers together with the arrested personnel of Crédit Suisse Chiasso had sat on the boards of other companies in the north Swiss cantons of Zug, Schwyz, Glarus, Davos and Graubünden threw up the question whether or not Crédit Suisse's Zurich headquarters had been involved, or at least had an interest in Texon's activities.

The bank responded at the beginning of May by setting up a special commission of executive board members to investigate "at all levels" in its headquarters and the Chiasso branch.

Against a background of un-

settled financial markets, rising anger in the Swiss press and questions before Parliament, the commission moved quickly. It cleared the bank's chairman, Dr Aeppli, but on May 10 the chief general manager, Dr Wulfli, resigned together with Mr Sergio Demiville, one of Crédit Suisse's deputy general managers.

At the same time Mr Felix Schutte, the former chairman, renounced the title of honorary chairman of the bank conferred on him at its 120th annual general meeting at the end of March this year.

The commission's report, which was presented in an abridged form to shareholders last week, found no criminal link between Zurich and Chiasso. However, Dr Wulfli and Mr Schutte had failed to act with sufficient resolution in the face of "signals" indicating that something was amiss.

Mr Demiville's departure, it emerged, was less to do with Chiasso than with as yet undefined losses arising from granting excessive loans to a Milan-based company, Molini Certosa.

The response of the share-

holders to the report and to Dr Aeppli's reckoning of the affair was overwhelmingly positive. It became apparent that the bank's management had no cause to fear opposition from the ranks of the meeting.

The funds were placed with

Mr Kuhmeier and his associates on a fiduciary basis. Under normal circumstances they would have been invested by the Crédit Suisse or in the Euromarket, with first class addresses at the customer's risk.

Instead, Mr Kuhmeier, not only channelled the funds out-

ward to an unchanged dividend for this year.

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In the final analysis it is the

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## ANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

markets

**Industrial disputes curb demand**

rt, equities continued to rise yesterday, though it was halved by the FT another 2.4, to close at 1,120. With the deadlock at 1,120, already causing concern, could draw little from the increasing problems of the motor notably a strike notice from workers at Lucas. Isofels that funds held back for forthcoming Sotheby's, is and Lascos. But d' not give much to this theory of the amount of the money these issues would be specifically for.

premium while profits were also taken in the oil which ended with a drop of 10p to 925p. Hopes for next week's flotation continued to help Lascos, which went against the trend with a 10p up to 327p, but Shell dipped 10p to 370p on the Government's decision to postpone the closure of the Brent Field. In the building sector BPB Industries, mentioned here, rose 6p to 175p after profits which rose more than 40 per cent and an impressive performance in the generally difficult United Kingdom market. But UBM con-

tinued to react unfavourably to the Equity Bank stake, losing another 1p for a close of 54p.

The threat of a major strike from next week left Lucas 8p off at 2,000 but confirmation of the much talked of maintained dividend from J. Lyons boosted its share up to 35p. Ahead of the ex-dividend date, a week ago, Trust Houses Forte jumped 6p to 153p.

Redeem: National Glass, a particularly strong spot after hours on Tuesday, ended at 207p, a rise of 14p, on the close of the previous session. The

theory runs that the group's potential suitor will show its hand this week. Gem Holdings, where unidentified talks have just been called off continued to weaken to 55p.

In the engineering sector Swan Hunter jumped 7p to 112p on takeover compensation hopes, Hawker Siddeley were 10p to the good at 60p after a favourable bank circular and Spirax-Sarco and 5.5 lower at 280p after a denial which followed takeover talk inspired by this week's strong performance. Spear & Jackson met with sup-

port to close 6p ahead at 142p. In papers Beaverbrook's A field firm at 6p awaiting news of the Trafalgar House talks while Morgan Grampian closed 5p up at 110p.

Among the industrial leaders there wererippenny losses from Fisons at 345p, BAT Industries at 275p and Unilever at 494p. But Beecham stayed

The rise in Racel Electronics in recent months has indeed been impressive and many would say that the best is yet to come whatever happens to the share of the electronic industry. At around 23p Celerion, famous for loudspeakers, has not shared in the fun, yet it has a stake in Racel which goes a long way towards covering the share price.

In financials Standard Chartered Bank jumped 12p to 330p after the permission to raise the dividend while the best of the domestic clearing banks was Lloyds with a gain of 3p to 220p.

Equity turnover on June 28 was £12.95m (22,112 bargains). According to Exchange Information Services, yesterday were BP, part paid, ICI, Shell, BAT Dif., Barclays Bank, Trust Houses Forte, Royal Insurance, BP, Giltspur, Hawker Siddeley, BAT Ord., AP, Cenoco, GKN, Marks & Spencer, Unilever, IC Gas, RIZ, Charter Consolidated, Distillers, Lucas, Edgar Allen, Redfearn and York Traders.

National forecasts for consumer spending are slightly more optimistic for later in the year, and the GfC is well prepared for the arrival of the summer in spending which takes place during higher volume sales months which usually occur in final quarter.

The board, R. Foster and Son,

have been involved in talks for some time now, with a view to Silentnight taking an interest in share capital of Foster. The boards of both companies are satisfied with their ongoing activities, and a merger would ensure the continued profitability of Foster and also ensure the necessary capital available for the expansion of Foster's business.

Both boards have reached agreement on the global consideration to be paid to shareholders in Foster, but details of the transaction have yet to be settled. It is, however, now reasonable to suppose that agreement will be reached within next month.

Over the past year the performance of this mattress and furniture specialist was good with all three divisions showing their paces. Profits before tax rose 52 per cent to £2.75m on turnover 40 per cent up at £8.66m. The pace achieved at half time was largely maintained over the second half.

Generally, the performance

of the group's bed manufacturing division was outstanding.

The upholstered division continued to prosper, while the overseas manufacturing and distribution companies chipped in with record profits.

The group, which is the headboard maker in Britain, has a strong cash flow. Its total funds employed rose from £6.18m to £9.16m over the year. Net current assets went up from £1.35m to £1.9m.

Over the previous year the period of the board began to pick up after a period of retrenchment, which was general in the industry. Turnover went up from £16.5m to £21.8m, while pre-tax profits jumped from £3.80m to £5.1m.

The new rates will apply immediately to mortgages completed on or after 13th June 1977.

On and after 1st July 1977 to mortgages completed before 13th June 1977.

Borrowers will be notified individually of the monthly payments they should make.

**INVESTORS**

The Society will pay the undermentioned rates of interest on the following kinds of investments:-

Paid-Up Shares -£6.70 per cent per annum

Deposits -£6.45 per cent per annum

Monthly Savings -£7.95 per cent per annum

The rate of interest on Subscription Shares and on Matured Subscription Shares will be reduced by 0.30 per cent per annum.

The new rates will apply immediately to accounts opened on or after 1st July 1977.

On and after 1st August 1977 to accounts open at the end of June 1977.

The rate of interest on Term Share accounts open at the end of June 1977 will be reduced by 0.30 per cent per annum from the end of July 1977.

The rates mentioned above will not apply to investors whose investments (including shares in joint investments) exceed £15,000 or are held by a limited company, corporate body or discretionary or accumulating trust. The rate of interest payable to those investors in the Paid-Up Share and Deposit departments will be reduced by 0.50 per cent per annum.

Details of the rates of interest payable on investments in other departments will be available at branches and agencies before 1st July 1977.

Trinity Road Halifax

**GEI well prepared for coming upswing**

By Our Financial Staff

A double bonus is offered by GEI International, the engineering group in among other things, rims and wheels for commercial vehicles and earth-moving machinery; steel bars and wire; speed drives, industrial hydraulic jacks, and packaging and labelling machinery.

The bonuses are that our standing orders are higher than for some time; and the presence of ample capacity to cope with an upturn when it arrives.

Mr Thomas Kenny, chairman, says: "it (a mini boom) has not yet arrived; it may come towards the end of this year. If it does we shall derive much benefit because we have invested in anticipation of its belated arrival."

The board, R. Foster and Son, have been involved in talks for some time now, with a view to Silentnight taking an interest in share capital of Foster.

According to Exchange Information Services, yesterday were BP, part paid, ICI, Shell, BAT Dif., Barclays Bank, Trust

Houses Forte, Royal Insurance, BP, Giltspur, Hawker Siddeley, BAT Ord., AP, Cenoco, GKN, Marks & Spencer, Unilever, IC Gas, RIZ, Charter Consolidated, Distillers, Lucas, Edgar Allen, Redfearn and York Traders.

Happily the group is not short of cash. On March 31 last it had £5.36m in cash or short-term deposits against overdrafts of only £1.23m.

The shares rested yesterday at 64p where the yield is 5.9

per cent and the P/E more than 8.

**tcross set to expand further**

start to the current year with new production in each division, he states, "our investment per employee has been up for every 21 of profit earned".

Mr Alexander discloses that the development of products for the confectionery and cosmetic trades plus an increase in capacity for plastic sheet has contributed to a steady growth in sales in the packaging division.

Sales and profits of the Metropolitan Confectionery Company acquired in October, 1976, have "risen steeply" and further investment is being made in the manufacturing plant near Dartford, Kent.

**Latest results**

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div. pence	Pay. date	Year's end
E. Allen Bar (F)	49.1(51.8)	0.38(3.2)	0.2(15.2)	3.13(2.73)	—	4.3(3.5)
Allied Plant (F)	4.07(4.164)	0.47(0.28)	0.34(1.0)	0.23(0.37)	—	0.36(0.65)
Bev. Owners (F)	31.4(30.4)	0.48(0.48)	0.45(0.48)	6.0(6.0)	—	8.5(13.5)
Brit. Bros. (T)	1.7(1.2)	—	—	0.56(0.56)	18.8	—(1.5)
Bundell-Perrin (T)	2.5(6.4)	0.31(0.35)	0.31(1.2)	3.42(2.1)	—	4.6(5.5)
B.P.C. Int'l (F)	243.2(201.1)	27.1(19.2)	3.1(23.6)	1.43(1.2)	—	2.13(1.90)
Brickhouse (F)	18.1(16.9)	1.549(1.54)	1.32(0.9)	0.4(0.25)	—	1.1(1.56)
Brown Bros. (T)	6.2(5.4)	0.14(0.08)	0.14(0.08)	0.5(0.5)	—	0.7(1.1)
Chow Seng (L)	0.2(0.2)	—	—	0.5(0.5)	—	0.7(0.7)
Courses (F)	4.73(4.0)	0.34(0.3)	0.34(1.3)	1.45(1.2)	—	2.1(2.1)
Edifice (Rgs.) (F)	2.7(11.8)	0.36(0.19)	0.24(1.76)	5.7(5.3)	—	7.5(12.5)
Halma (F)	2.9(6.1)	0.76(0.62)	0.67(2.03)	0.68(0.57)	—	1.2(1.4)
Hawker (P)	3.2(3.2)	0.65(0.41)	0.48(1.42)	2.1(1.5*)	—	2.6(3.4)
G. F. Lovell (F)	4.85(4.21)	0.65(0.5)	0.65(2.5)	1.1(1.1)	—	1.6(1.6)
J. Lyons (F)	69.0(65.0)	10.3(7.4)	1.2(2.9)	2.7(2.3)	—	11.5(14.8)
MAG Dual Test (F)	24.4(20.0)	2.1(0.99)	0.9(9.9)	1.46(1.3)	—	2.5(2.3)
News Int'l (F)	—	0.11(0.01)	67.1(14.8)	4.0(3.7)	—	—(7.3)
Northgate (F)	0.24(0.12)	—	—	—	—	—
Prog. Secs Inv. (F)	0.12(0.12)	0.10(0.10)	—	—	—	—
Rakusin Grp (T)	0.62(0.58)	0.025(0.021)	—	—	—	—
Vectis Stone (T)	4.0(3.4)	0.13(0.12)	—	0.6(0.5)	5.8	—(1.3)

Dividends in this table are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. Profits are shown per share, and earnings are net. Losses, if any, are shown as a minus sign. Forecast, if any, is shown as a plus sign.

**Turnover higher at Brit Home Stores**

At yesterday's annual general meeting of British Home Stores the chairman, Sir Jack Callard, said that the overall national level of spending on consumer products during the early part of this year has been lower in the volume than in the similar period of last year, and the ordinary share of this ordinary share capital.

However, he was pleased to say that its turnover to date has exceeded that of last year and whereas so much is unknown about the level of incomes, or even of taxation, for the remainder of the year, which makes forecasting of the future level of trading extremely hazardous—the board has every confidence that the group will, in its existing stores, continue to maintain and even improve its total share. In addition, new stores are being opened and he would expect the benefit from some of these to show towards the end of the year.

The board therefore feels that the company is in an excellent position to benefit from any improvement to consumer demand.

**Obstacles to growth at Midland Int'l**

Sharp movements in foreign exchange and interest rates hindered the development of consortium bank Midland and International in the year to March 31, Lord Armstrong, chairman, says in the annual report. Deposits grew by almost £100m to £854m but with the slowdown in medium-term lending the rise in the loan book of £55m to £495m was more modest.

Even so, the growth of reserves has enabled MAIBL to transfer £2m from its losses and undisclosed reserves, and to capitalize £5m as a one-for-two scrip issue.

**GO-Cavenham terms for scaling down**

Now that Générale Occidentale has succeeded with its partial bid for the shares in Cavenham Foods it did not already own, the French group reveals the terms of the scaling down scheme.

Acceptances of more than half of any individual's ordinary shareholding in Cavenham will

Another year of bounding at London and N.

It is fair to say that London & Northern Group, the construction, quarrying, plant hire, metalcast group concern led by Mr Jock Mackenzie has held up against building recession and what was once a highly geared balance sheet, unexpectedly well.

Last year pre-tax profits were steady at £9.57m even though the group had to provide as much as £2.36m against land held for development quite apart from an exceptional loss of £400,000 in an overseas subsidiary.

How long can L & N keep it up? It is not as if business is yet about to recover. Bad weather has held the group back in the United Kingdom, and the figures for the first half of this year to next December will suffer.

But the chairman is not gloomy. He reports that the construction interests have good order books both at home and abroad and should show growth in attributable trading profits.

Equally encouraging, the group is once again ready to grow—and grow faster—now that it has reorganized and cut borrowings sharply.

The group balance sheet shows that overdrafts less cash in hand have fallen from £23.4m to £7.6m though there are multi-million pound loans to be repaid within five years.

**HICKING PENTECOST & Co. Limited****PRELIMINARY FIGURES**

Results for the year ended March 31, 1977:

	1977 £
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# Pegler Hattersley

## 1977 - "A record year"

- Sales increased by 17% to £80.2m—30% of sales came from overseas.
- Profit before tax increased to £18.2m.
- Associated companies made a substantially increased contribution to group results. Divisional trading profits were marginally lower—earnings from building products improved but those of the engineering and valve division did not match last year's high level.
- Earnings per share increased

from 25.3p to 29.9p and the group maintained its strong financial position.

"We have had a record year in which benefits came from the increase in our international activities, and I anticipate further progress will be made in the future. At present there is a weakness in some of our traditional markets where recovery may be slow, but we are well placed to take advantage of any favourable situation which arises."

### RESULTS FOR 1977

	1977 £'000	1976 £'000
Profit before metal stock appreciation	17,205	14,337
Profit before tax	18,155	14,437
Profit after tax	8,767	7,031
Earnings per share	29.9p	25.3p
Dividend per share (gross)	10.586p	9.625p



Copies of the full report and accounts are available from The Secretary, Pegler-Hattersley Limited, St. Catherine's Avenue, Doncaster DN4 8DF.

INDUSTRIAL VALVES - DOMESTIC PLUMBING FITTINGS - RADIATOR VALVES

ACRYLIC PLASTICS - POLYTHENE AND PVC COMPONENTS

FABRICATIONS AND DESALINATION EQUIPMENT

# Selincourt

CLOTHING AND TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS

Frank Usher      Marella      Tricosa      Jacqmar

Filigree      MacDougall of Scotland      Bush Baby

**"Trading figures for the first quarter of the current year are ahead of expectations"**

LIONEL L. LEIGHTON, Chairman at the AGM 29th June, 1977

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement for the year ended 31st January, 1977.

- A record trading year for the Group.
- Profit of £3.181m. is in excess of twice that of last year.
- Turnover increased by 20.9% to £48.227m.
- Exports up by 38.2%.
- The dividend which is 21% higher than last year is covered 6.7 times.
- We are currently examining the possibility of establishing a European trading centre.
- The Board can see a further significant increase in profits in the current year.

A COPY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 1977 MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, 74/80 CAMDEN STREET, LONDON NW1 0EL

# 'Our five-year annual average growth rate is over 30% compound. Scotcros will continue to grow.'

Mr. W. R. Alexander, Chairman

Year ended 31 March	1977 £,000	1976 £,000	1975 £,000	1974 £,000	1973 £,000
Sales	20,099	12,770*	11,161*	9,815*	5,497*
Profit before taxation	1,182	731	600	521	280
Earnings per ordinary share	9.2p	6.5p	5.0p	4.2p	3.7p

\*These figures have been adjusted for sales of subsidiary companies, either sold or wound up, during the five-year period.

A copy of the report and accounts may be obtained from:

The Secretary, Scotcros Limited, Fitzpatrick House, Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 6QR

# SCOTCROS

Packaging • Food and drink • Transport equipment

### FINANCIAL NEWS

#### Edgar Allen convinced that worst is over

By Ray Maughan

Down from £3.22m to £285,000 pre-tax in the year to April 2 last, Edgar Allen, Balfour is convinced that the worst is over. The damage was caused mostly by the closure of Balfour-Darwin's Capital tool works factory which precipitated a strike by over 2,000 employees for 10 weeks.

The surgery was drastic, for although the plant had been losing about £600,000 annually over the previous four years, the dispute is estimated to have cost about £2m in lost profits. Terminal losses of £308,000 incurred up to the date of closure on January 28 last have been excluded from the published pre-tax profits.

But chairman Mr John Oakley believes that Balfour Darwins will reward the net £1.8m paid for its acquisition in the spring of 1975. Balfour's steel operations are earning profits, the casting activities turned round at the end of the year, and the magnet manufacturing subsidiary returned to the black last October.

The steel and engineering group as a whole, the directors group, should exceed the £2.3m pre-tax profit attained in 1975-76. Optimism is based on an improving order book—up at £22.5m at mid-May last against £20.5m at the half-year and £18.5m a year ago—spread across the board.

Capital spending will be maintained at around last year's level of £2.5m and hopes are pinned on improved exports—barely improved last year at £9.1m as a result of the strike—particularly in the United States and the Far East.

The dispute, however, has left its mark on the balance sheet and United Kingdom liquidity deteriorated by about £2.5m during the year. But after the release of £4.88m deferred tax, the group's gearing is an "acceptable" 51 per cent, or 62 per cent before the recommendations contained in ED19.

The board is confident that borrowing facilities are more than adequate for future plans and contingencies and, for the foreseeable future, a rights issue or some form of fresh equity funding are emphatically ruled out.

If Edgar Allen, Balfour can recover all the ground lost last year, a return to profit of over £3.3m pre-tax indicates a primary earnings ratio of just over 4. The shares climbed 5p to 67p yesterday, and the market received further reassurance by the decision to pay a maximum proposed dividend of 6.67p gross per share from the total for the year to 10.50p gross, compared with 9.54p the year before. A third interim dividend of 0.10sp will share.

A second interim dividend of 5.27p gross has been declared for the total for the year to 10.50p gross, compared with 9.54p the year before. A third interim dividend of 0.10sp will

be paid if the basic income tax rate is 33 per cent.

The shares rose 6p to 75p yesterday, to yield 6 per cent and to 5.5 times earnings of 31.7p a share.

Although standing at their 1975/77 high, the shares are attractive long term on the basis of an anticipated pick-up in housing starts, as well as the growth potential offered by the group generally.

A final dividend of 6.2647p raises the annual total by 15 per cent to £22.6745p. Treasury permission has been obtained.

Since the beginning of April trading has continued to be slow in this division but Mr Alan Pentecost, chairman, is confident that a planned programme of rationalisation should enable the group to make better use of resources.

The current year has started well for knitwear exports and, although there has been some decline on the home market, this order book is "satisfactory" to the year end.

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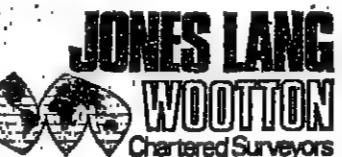
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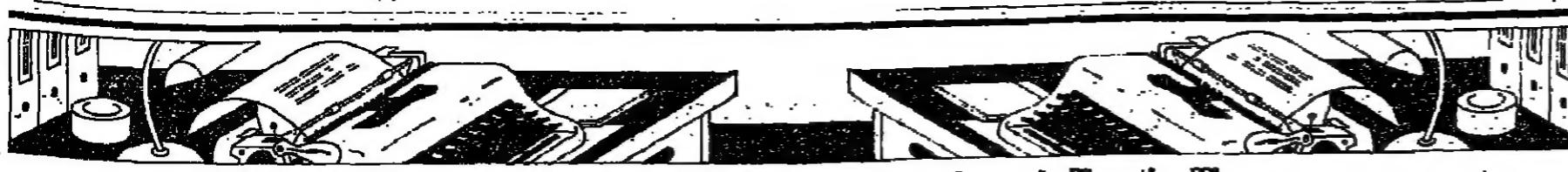
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For interview and further details, please contact Miss Gwendoline Commonwealth Developments Corporation, 33 Hill Street, London W1. Telephone 01-628 8484

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The Advertising Department of a well-known fashion company in the West End requires a Junior Secretary to help with general office work and to deal with customers.

Excellent working conditions, including a delicious three-course lunch, 21 days' annual leave, 2 weeks' holiday, £1,200-£1,300 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £1,400-£1,500 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £1,500-£1,600 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £1,600-£1,700 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £1,700-£1,800 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £1,800-£1,900 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £1,900-£2,000 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,000-£2,100 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,100-£2,200 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,200-£2,300 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,300-£2,400 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,400-£2,500 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,500-£2,600 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,600-£2,700 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,700-£2,800 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,800-£2,900 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £2,900-£3,000 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £3,000-£3,100 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £3,100-£3,200 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, £3,200-£3,300 p.a. 3 days/4 weeks' holiday, 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Call 01-278 9161 for cancellations or a Step Number will be given to the advertiser. On any subsequent issue, quote the cancellation, this Step Number must be quoted.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD.** We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

As I live with the Lord I do. I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked perish from this way and never! — Ecclesiastes 9:14.

**BIRTHS**

ANGELL—On 13th June 1977, at 8.45 a.m., Mr. and Mrs. Alan Angell of Cheshunt, Herts.—a daughter, Christopherine.

ATHIASON—On June 24th, 1977, at 12.15 p.m., at St. Paul's Church, London, Dr. and Mrs. Athiason—daughter, Sophie (Mrs. Vaulier) and Michael.

BENNETT—On June 25th, 1977, in Vancouver, Canada, to Jeanne and David—son, Michael.

BEFORE—On Sunday June 25th, 1977, in Cambridge, to Ruth and Alexander—son, Michael.

BROOKES—On June 25th, 1977, at 1.30 p.m., at St. Paul's Church, London, Sophie (Mrs. Vaulier) and Michael.

FOSTER—On June 26th, 1977, at 1.30 p.m., at St. Paul's Church, London, Dr. and Mrs. Foster—daughter, Sophie.

LAWSON—On June 27th, 1977, at 1.30 p.m., at St. Paul's Church, London, Dr. and Mrs. Lawson—daughter, Sophie.

RIDER—On June 27th, to Jim Jones, Commune of Peoples Temple, San Francisco—daughter, Linda.

SCOTT—On June 28th, to Tessie and John—daughter, Linda.

STEVENS—On June 28th, to Anne Stevens—daughter, Joanne.

STRANGE—On June 28th, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent—son, Ross Alexander.

WILLIAMS—On June 27th, 1977, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent—son, David—son, Ross Alexander.

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